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Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

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Rice fights to keep Enterprise Zones

By Kelly Foster

For nearly 15 years, Newark, as well as other municipalities, have thrived under the Urban Enterprise Zone Act (UEZ) which has helped revitalize urban centers and stimulate economic growth. However, the act expires January, 2001, and all the years of development may be threatened, unless Senator Ronald Rice (D-Essex) has his way.

Rice has authored a bill that would extend the life of the program, which originally was set up to assist cities for 15 of a 20-year period.

The bill was recently passed by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and is waiting for a full Senate vote. Camden, Plainfield, Bridgeton and Trenton are also due to lose benefits if the act is not adapted permanently, according to Rice.

The UEZ act was passed by the New Jersey Legislature, and enacted in 1983.

"The Urban Enterprise Zone program has created more than 46,000 new jobs and generated enormous benefits for the residents of Newark, Irvington, Trenton and other cities," Rice said.

The goal of the program is to assist communities with a high unemployment rate, and to help economically distressed cities. Participating businesses charge a three percent sales tax, instead of the regular six percent, and the revenue is used to help businesses and the community.

The act provides assistance based on a 20-year cycle. During the first five years, the full three percent sales tax is used by the city, during the next five years, two percent is used by the city and one percent is given to the state, and the following five years, cities use one percent, and two percent is returned to the state; during the last five years, all three percent is returned to the state and the city receives no revenue.

In addition, employers get \$1500 tax credit per employee, and eligible businesses can purchase goods tax exempt.

According to Alfred Faiella, executive director of Newark Economic Development Corporation, over 900 businesses in Newark participate in the UEZ program.

"The UEZ has done wonders, but not enough," said Faiella. "We spent a lot of money funding police officers and not enough doing physical improvements, now we want the emphasis to shift to physical improvements."

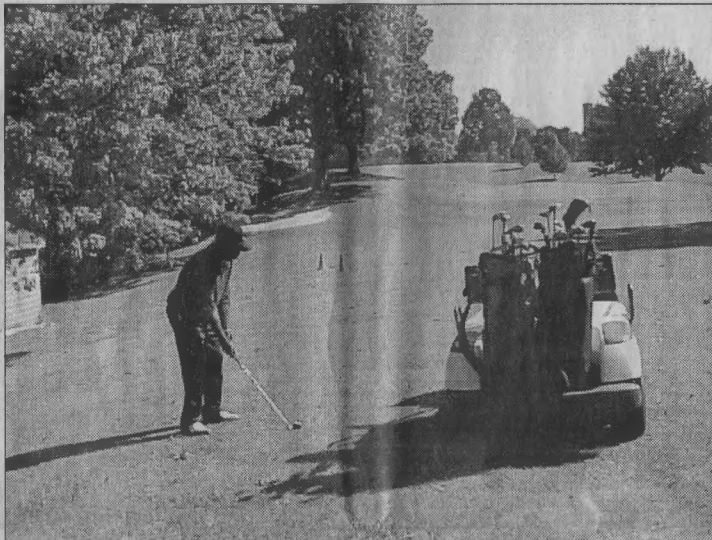
Faiella said when the program first started, Newark's unemployment rate was about 14 or 15 percent, and now it's about 7.5 to 8 percent. He said not all of that improvement was due to UEZ revenue, but that the program has had a significant impact in Newark.

"We estimate tens of thousands of jobs have been attributed to the UEZ program," said Faiella. Rice's bill would give the New Jersey Urban Enterprise Zone Authority to make all 27 UEZ zones permanent.

"Making UEZ's permanent adds cities, local businesses and residents — a triple crown of success."

see ZONE on A-8

The Greens of Weequahic



Coleman Rodgers of Newark tees off at the Weequahic Golf Course

Photo: Kelly Foster

Uniquely Newark: Weequahic offers beautiful spacious living, and golf too

By Kelly Foster

Quiet residential areas and tree lined streets do not usually conjure up thoughts of a neighborhood in Newark. But these features can be found in abundance in the Weequahic section of Newark, a prime area for business and housing development.

Located in the South Ward section of the city, Weequahic derives its name from a Native American name that means "head of a creek or river." It was established as a boundary between Newark and Elizabethtown, which is today's Elizabeth, according to Newark Historical Society Librarian Grace McCrann.

Newark was first settled by a group from New Haven in 1666, led by Robert Treat, said McCrann, and was farmland until the 19th century, according to Charles Cummings, city historian for the Newark Public Library.

During the first half of the century, the area was developed as a residential section. Back then, the area was predominantly Jewish, with Italian and Polish populations too, Cummings said. Much of Weequahic's residential areas were developed in the early 20th century as middle-class and upper-class areas, according to Cummings, and many of the homes were built 40 and 50 years ago.

During World War II, more African Americans entered the work force and settled there. He said, "In the 1950's the African American population started to grow. As one group moved in, the others moved out." Now the area is predominantly African American.

Today, Weequahic continues to be a hotbed for development. The area will soon be host to about 700 new townhouses, according to Newark Council President Donald Bradley, and will cost approximately \$160,000, he said. "We are asking the developers to renovate about 300 abandoned houses as well," said Bradley. With the sale of the new homes, the city plans to give grants to senior citizens on fixed incomes in order to fix their homes. Several apartment complexes will also be renovated, he said. The city also has plans to build an industrial park in the area.

Probably the most prominent feature in Weequahic is, of course, Weequahic Park. Developed in the 1890's, it is among one of the oldest county parks in the U.S. In the 19th century, the area was used as an informal horse racetrack, where the horses raced on the grass. In the early 20th century crowds gathered to enjoy the races and a regular racetrack was built. It was torn down a few years ago.

Some of the features of the 311-acre park include an 80-acre lake, a soccer field, a cricket area, lighted basketball courts and two new playgrounds. A new rubberized 2.2-mile track was recently added around the perimeter of the park. Across the street from the park lies the Weequahic Park Golf Course, built in 1914, it is open year round.

Since 1993, the Weequahic Park Association, a group of community volunteers, has made it their mission to beautify the park. "Now, there is no vandalism or graffiti in the park. It makes for a whole community," Felton Middleton, trustee of the association, said. The group was recently awarded \$3 million from the Department of Environmental Protection to clean up the lake.

"We have to test the water for algae, and build a drainage catch basin to catch the water coming from Route 22," said Middleton.

Some of Newark's local politicians call the Weequahic section home. Bradley and Mayor Sharpe James have lived in the area for several years. Bradley, who has lived in his home for 30 years, said he liked the semi-residential areas in Weequahic. "It has stable neighborhoods," he said.

East Orange asks State for help with debt woes

By Kelly Foster

The city of East Orange is anxious to settle its debts. It has been a city plagued by delinquent bills and long-term debts since October 1999, which has prompted the state to monitor East Orange's fiscal well-being. For yet another year, the city has requested state help in managing its finances.

East Orange Mayor Robert Bowser said he made a request for \$20 million in Distressed City Aid to the Division of Local Government Services to ease the city's financial problems, including about \$20 million in long-term debt.

"What we need is not a band aid, but an infusion of money to remove this long-standing debt," said Bowser. The state also needs to focus on the Water Commission's problems, he said. Last year, the Commission had a deficit of about \$2.6 million.

"If things remain the same, there will be an additional deficit this year," Bowser said. According to Bowser, one of the city's problems is the lack of solid inter-local agreements, the contracts between the East Orange Water Commission and the cities it serves. In addition to E. Orange, the Commission manages Kearny, Harrison, Orange and S. Orange.

"The inter-local agreements don't allow us to increase water rates for about five years, so we have to appeal to the Board for that," Bowser said. He said raising water rates would help increase revenue and reduce deficit.

Bowser said water accounts haven't been paid in years. Some capital improvements that need to be made to the Water Commission are putting in new wells and studying areas for leakage. The mayor also wants permanent salaries to be commensurate with City Hall salaries for similarly titled positions.

The city is also in negotiations with different labor unions, trying to negotiate salaries.

The state intervened in East Orange because the city had an operations cash deficit in excess of four percent for two consecutive years, according to Al Steinberg, director of the state Division of Local Government Services.

"Our efforts focus on minimizing the detriment to East Orange," said Steinberg. In terms of the water commission, Steinberg said the state needs to work through operating issues, staffing concerns, upgrading the computer system, among other issues.

"Last year we passed a budget with no tax increases, and I don't see the need for an increase this year, in fact, we're hoping for a decrease," said Steinberg.

He said the hiring of a tax collector helped with the collection of delinquent taxes for the city.

Bowser said that the water bills now need to be collected. "Some accounts haven't been paid in years, particularly in Orange."

On a positive note, Bowser said the city had set a budget for \$8.1 million for lost revenue collections, but has actually collected 13.6 million, which represented an increase of about four percent.

Jail has become the Jim Crow of the 21st century

Felony convictions keep 13 percent of adult black men from voting

By Greg Toppo

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — On Election Day, nearly 1.4 million voting-age black men — more than one in eight — will be ineligible to cast ballots because of state laws that strip felons of the right to vote.

"Here we are, 50 years after the beginning of the civil rights movement, and we actually have an increasing number of African-Americans who are disenfranchised each year," said Marc Maurer of The Sentencing Project, which analyzed 1996 Justice Department statistics along with Human Rights Watch.

Disenfranchised black males account for 35 percent of all Americans now barred from voting because of felony convictions. Two percent of all Americans, or 3.9 million, have lost the right to vote, compared with 13 percent of adult black men.

State laws governing voter eligibility vary. Nine states impose a lifetime voting ban on convicted felons. In 32 states, felons can vote after serving their sentence and completing parole. Three states — Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont — have no prohibition and allow prisoners to vote. Massachusetts voters will act on a bill in November that would strip prisoners of voting rights. A similar measure was approved by Utah voters in 1998.

Six other states impose restrictions based on a felon's prior record or parole status.

Civil liberties groups filed a lawsuit last Thursday challenging "Felons' lifetime ban. The ban is unconstitutional because its disproportionate effect on blacks makes the state law discriminatory, the lawsuit said.

Allen Beck of the Federal Bureau of Justice Statistics declined to assess the accuracy of the 13 percent estimate, but Curtis Gans, director

of the nonpartisan Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, said he believes the figure is accurate.

Beck said that, based on current rates of incarceration, 28.5 percent of black males will likely serve time in a state or federal prison for a felony conviction, a rate seven times that for white males.

A state-by-state breakdown of data from The Sentencing Project, a private group that favors sentencing reform, shows that in 17 states the estimated percentage of disenfranchised black men is even higher than 13 percent.

In Florida and Alabama, for instance, the figure is 31 percent, while in Mississippi it is 29 percent. In Virginia, 25 percent of otherwise eligible black men cannot vote.

see FELONS on A-8

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

ethibaut@fsc.edu

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

NEW BRUNSWICK — Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University is hosting a lecture by Shirley Chisholm at the Neilson Dining Hall, Douglass Campus at 7:15 p.m. For more information call (732) 932-9384 ext. 259.

LINCROFT (through Oct. 25) — Monmouth County Park System is having a "Garage Sale Goodies" at the Thompson Park Craft Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information call (732) 842-4000.

NEWARK — New Jersey Historical Society is hosting a storytelling from 12:15-1 p.m. For more information call (973) 596-8500.

MIDDLETOWN — The Monmouth County Park System is hosting "Make-Up Trips and Trends" 5:30-8 p.m. at the Tatum Park Holland Activity Center. For more information call (732) 842-4000.

MIDDLETOWN — The Monmouth County Park System is hosting "Mind Your Manners" 5:30-8 p.m. at the Tatum Park Holland Activity Center. For more information call (732) 842-4000.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

LINCROFT (through Oct. 26) Monmouth County Park System is hosting "Crafty Collage Creations" at the Thompson Park Craft Center from 7-9 p.m. For more information call (732) 842-4000.

NEWARK — Beth Israel Hospital is having a reception for the Child Advocacy Center in Danzig Auditorium from 2-4 p.m. For more information call (973) 926-3111.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

NEWARK — The NJ Historical Society presents "Tavern Card & Board Games" at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. For information, call (973) 596-8500.

NEWARK — NJHS is hosting a tavern card and board game at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. For more information call (973) 596-8500.

LINCROFT — Monmouth County Park System will host "Drawing Caricatures" at the Thompson Park Craft Center from 9-12 p.m. For more information call (732) 842-4000.

UPPER FREEHOLD — Monmouth County Park Systems hosts "A Morning in the Mill" a presentation about how a water mill works. It will be held at Crosswicks Creeks Park 10-12 noon. For more information call (732) 842-4000.

RAHWAY — Union County Arts Center hosts "Suite From Star Wars" at 8 p.m. For more information call (732) 499-8226.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Fire Division is holding its annual Fire Prevention Fair at the Hub Stone Athletic Field from 10-3:00 p.m. For more information call (908) 753-3446.

NEWARK — New Jersey Citizen Action is hosting "A Home of Her Own. Women's Housing Initiative" at Essex County College rm 2131 from 2-4 p.m. For more information call (973) 643-8800, ext. 11.

HOLMDEL — The Monmouth County Park System is hosting "Old Fashioned Fair" from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and is looking for volunteers to assist in activities. For more information call (732) 842-4000, ext. 4283.

SCOTCH PLAINS — Union Catholic Regional High School Class of '90 are organizing their 10-year reunion. For information, send e-mails to pdukrin769@aol.com.

WARREN — Union Catholic Regional High School Class of '84 will have a reunion at Forest Lodge 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For information send e-mails to

BROOKLYN, NY Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation is hosting a Kilometer Community Run at 10:00 a.m. For more information call (718) 696-6906.

LINCROFT — The Monmouth County Park System is hosting a trip to Newark Museum. A bus will leave Thompson Park at 10:45 a.m. and return at 5:30 p.m. For more information call (732) 842-4000.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

CRANFORD — Union County College is hosting a poetry reading featuring Robert Greely on the Cranford campus from 7:30-9 p.m. For more information call (908) 709-7603.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

SCOTCH PLAINS — Union Catholic Regional High School hosts the Holiday Gift Market & Craft Fair. For more information call (908) 889-1600.

HOWELL — Monmouth County Park System will sponsor its Timberbrook Triathlon at the Manasquan Reservoir. For more information call (732) 615-3905.

NEWARK — NJHS is hosting "If these walls can talk: A NJHS Mystery" to find out what the building used as. It begins at 10:00 a.m. For more information call (973) 596-8500.

RAHWAY — Union County Arts Center is hosting the one-man show "Mark Twain" at 8 p.m. For more information call (732) 499-8226.

MANALAPAN — Monmouth County Library is hosting "Alice Paul Archives Day" at the library at 12:30 p.m. For more information call (732) 431-7310.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

FREEHOLD — Monmouth County Park System is hosting Turkey Park Swamp Day from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information call (732) 842-4000.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

NEWARK — The NJ Historical Society presents "What A Relief" at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. For information, call (973) 596-8500.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

NEWARK — The NJ Historical Society presents the "Halloween Community Family Festival" from 12-4 p.m. For information, call (973) 596-8500.

RAHWAY — Union County Arts Center is hosting "Superlodge" at 3 p.m. For more information call (732) 499-8226.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

IRVINGTON — The Urban League of Essex County is offering free homebuyer education seminars from 6-8:30 p.m. For more information (973) 624-9539 ext. 104.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

NEWARK — The NJ Historical Society presents "See Through Sand" at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. For information, call (973) 596-8500.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

NEWARK — The NJ Historical Society presents "Cooking with Com" at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. For information, call (973) 596-8500.

For community calendar events, call: 973-642-5444. Send to: City News Calendar, 111 Mulberry St., Suite 1-F, Newark, NJ 07102. E-mail to: CityNewsNews@hotmail.com. Send information at least three weeks prior to the event.



Pictured, left to right, at a recent swearing-in ceremony in Mayor Sharpe James' office, is Claude Wallace, the deputy city clerk, as he administers the Oath to Trish Morris-Yamba, executive director of the Newark Day School, while Deputy Mayor Delores Metz hold Bible. This ceremony marks a reappointment to the Library Board for Morris-Yamba to a four-year term.

NEWARK — The Newark Public Library Board of Trustees added two new members when the City Clerk swore them in to their offices at a ceremony in the Mayor's office in City Hall on Sept. 15.

Howard Jonas, the chairman of IDT, and Dr. Debbie Salas-Lopez, assistant professor at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, became the newest members on the Board of Trustees. Recently, Trish Morris-Yamba, executive director of the Newark Day School, was re-appointed to a four-year term, which expires in 2004.

Jonas fills a vacancy created by the resignation of Frank Salasno for



Pictured, left to right, is Claude Wallace, Deputy City Clerk as he administers the Oath to Dr. Debbie Salas-Lopez, assistant professor at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and Mr. Howard Jonas, chairman IDT Corporation. Albert Continio president Board of Trustees Newark Public Library holds Bible during the ceremony.

2001 National Merit Semifinalist announced

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP — William Hetfield of Plainfield is among eight seniors at The Pigmy School to be named semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

He is now part of a select group of high school students nationwide who have distinguished themselves as academically talented and are enrolled to compete in the competition for some 7,900 Merit Scholarship awards worth more than \$81 million.

The students entered the 2001 Merit Program as juniors by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which initially screened more than 1.2 million students from over 20,000 U.S. high schools.

The highest scorers in each state were designated as semifinalists and represent less than one percent of each state's total high school graduating classes.

The next step for semifinalists is to fulfill the requirements for advancement to finalist status, including an outstanding high school academic record, recommendation by their current school principal or headmaster, and SAT scores that confirm their earlier qualifying performance.

Awards given for summer reading challenge

NEWARK — The Newark Public Library held a special awards ceremony on Sept. 9, marking the end of another successful "Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge." This premier reading and literacy program encourages Newark's children, in grades Pre-K through 8, to include the adventure of reading in their summer fun activities. It rewards their efforts with popular events and a step system of prizes.

The "over-all" winners, those who read and reported on 200 books were Raymond Walker (Clinton branch); Hoxia Khastieja (First Avenue); Cassa Thomas (Main Library); Rachel Niemczyk, Justin Niemczyk, Adrian Alcantara, Diana Osorio, Alfredo Sanchez, Nathalie Sanchez, Aoi Uchima and Joseph Uchima (North End Branch); and D'Andre Robinson (Weequahic).

Word on the street

Would you date someone if you knew they were married?

Mary Louise Jones
Levittown, PA

"No I wouldn't. I would try to have respect for the wife."

Chris Hayducka
Newark

"No, because when I was married the baby sitter took my husband so I wouldn't date a married man."

Sandra Adams

"No. I would put myself in the married woman's place. It is disrespectful to the sanctity of marriage."

John Addison
Orange

"No because I wouldn't want it done to me"

Jose Delgado
Newark

"It makes the relationship more intense."

Keith Davis
Paterson

"Yes because there is no real commitment. I even had a married woman pursue me once."

Every week City News is on the street to find out what you think.

Tanya Dumas
Bloomfield

"I would if I like him. If you really like someone, if doesn't matter"

Monique Perez
Trenton

"I don't want to deal with the problems. I don't want to share any man."

Cece Washington
Newark

"It depends on whether they have kids and if they are ready to get out of their marriage. If the woman has kids, she should stay with her husband."

Marion Johnson
Newark

"No, that just isn't my style"

George Hunter
Newark

"Yes, but not on purpose. Different people bring out different things in a person. Society says it is wrong but who are they to judge."

Bisola Anokomowo
Newark

"That is nasty. If a man is married he should stay with his wife."

Do you have an opinion about something happening in your community? Write us: "Word On The Street," City News, 111 Mulberry St., Suite 1-F, Newark, NJ 07102.

World-Class Workforce Expo 2000

October 31 • 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
Robert Treat Hotel • Newark

"How To Get the Job" Pre-Expo Workshops

Conducted by
United Way of Essex and West Hudson
Newark Enterprise Community Resource Development Center
Where is the Future Taking You?

- Have you been looking for a job, but can't get past submitting your application?
 - Do you find job offerings, but they require a resume and you don't have one?
 - Do you get nervous anticipating the question and answers for an interview?
 - Do you have an interview scheduled, but don't know what you should wear?
- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Monday, October 9, 2000 | 'Job Readiness' | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm |
| Monday, October 9, 2000 | 'Interviewing Skills' | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm |
| Monday, October 16, 2000 | 'Resume Writing' | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm |
| Monday, October 23, 2000 | 'Dress for Success' | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm |

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Name _____ Telephone _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Were you referred by an agency? Yes _____ No _____
If so, which agency? _____
Name of person who referred you _____
Workshop you wish to attend: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ (Time 9 am. or 1 pm.) 4 _____ (Time 9 am. or 1 pm.)
To register for the workshops, please contact Quinnetta Anderson at (973) 624-8500 ext. 290 or fax registration to (973) 242-6726 or send form to 303 Washington St., 5th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102. Deadline for registration is October 2, 2000.
In Collaboration with: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development New Jersey State Office • Workforce New Jersey • New Jersey Department of Community Affairs • Newark Workforce Investment Board • United Way of Essex and West Hudson • Newark Enterprise Resource Development Center • New Community Corporation • Millennium Information Technology Group, Inc. • Council for Airport Opportunity

Erie mayor ways proposal to monitor police profiling

ERIE, Pa. (AP) — The city's mayor is considering whether to monitor the Erie Bureau of Police's traffic citations to see if officers target minority drivers or drivers of a particular sex.

Dorothy Smith, executive director of the Erie chapter of the NAACP, has proposed that the city track citations to see if officers are engaging in race- or sex-based profiling. Mayor Joyce Savacchio said he is considering the request but is concerned that officers might be less willing to enforce traffic laws if they knew they were being closely monitored.

"Before we say yes, no or otherwise, I think we need to know how it is actually working in police departments that are using it," she said. "And is it effective? Has it been doing what it's supposed to do? Or has it caused more difficulty? Or has it caused a lack of enforcement? Because if you have a lack of enforcement, you're not going to get the data anyway."

Savacchio said she also wants to see what information comes in from an NAACP convention in Erie next month that will include a panel on racial profiling.

Several Pennsylvania cities, including Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Johnstown, already keep track of the race of drivers. Smith said other police departments across the country are monitoring police stops without problems.

Smith said police should track the race and gender of those who are stopped, not just those who are cited, to make sure police do not target people without citing them.

Few answers in assault of black student

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Police are still trying to determine why Washington State University freshman Afuany Priestner was beaten up earlier this month.

Some witnesses told investigators that Priestner, from Seattle, was jumped by 10 men; others depict a confrontation between Priestner and a member of a rival fraternity.

Minority groups have raised concerns that the assault was racially motivated. Priestner, 18, is black. His alleged assailants are white.

Police suspect the underlying cause was booze, not race.

In the first month of school, reports of alcohol-related violence have jumped more than 100 percent from the same period last year in the two most populated student residential areas — Campus Commons North and College Hill, where the Priestner incident occurred.

Police have received 45 reports of violence, including 14 for assaults, 17 for fights and disputes and another 14 for belligerent behavior. Police estimate 95 percent of this year's reports were alcohol-related.

There were 19 such calls over the same period last year.

"It's dismaying," said Pullman Police officer Carew Halleck.

Halleck, who walks the College Hill beat four nights a week, has experienced the violence himself.

On the night Priestner was assaulted, Halleck suffered a concussion when an attempt to question an underage drinker turned into a scuffle.

"It seems to me we respond to a fight up on or around Greek Row every other day," Halleck said.

Police and school officials say the trouble often involves visitors, non-WSU students who show up on College Hill with backpacks filled with booze looking for a party. Students call them "randoms."

School officials have taken to walking the College Hill streets this year to encourage students to behave responsibly.

"It's a whole different ballgame than we've had in the past," said George Bettas, WSU associate dean of students. "These students want to cooperate."

Corruption investigation targets Atlanta mayor

By Chad Roedemeier
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — A businessman gets caught on tape offering a \$5,000 bribe for a competitor to bow out of the bidding for a suburban county equipment contract. To save himself, he offers to help investigators catch bigger fish.

An FBI investigation widens. Eventually, it nets guilty pleas from a Fulton County commissioner, a high-ranking staffer, a contractor, and focuses on its next target — which appears to be Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell.

Although authorities will not confirm the probe, Campbell has said that he is being investigated. He originally agreed to cooperate with investigators, but recently lashed out against them, calling federal authorities "the forces of evil" and comparing the FBI to "the KGB in Communist Russia."

"My friends, this is not an investigation, but an inquisition," Campbell said last week. "It is hopelessly out of control, with real abuses of the criminal justice system."

The investigation is a political crisis for Campbell, a popular mayor at the end of his second term in office. The black Democrat

has been in the national spotlight as a strong supporter of affirmative action and as the handsome face representing the city during the 1996 Olympics.

Campbell went on the offensive last week after someone leaked to the media that investigators were asking questions about a gambling trip he made to Mississippi casinos. He held a news conference and made a tour of Atlanta's black radio stations in which he said the FBI has used such investigations to target powerful blacks for decades.

But when the investigation began in 1996 it had nothing to do with Atlanta. Federal officials were looking at a suspected bribe on a routine bid to provide equipment for a water treatment facility.

Atlanta businessman Herbert H. Timmerman, who owns a company called Eco-Tech, offered a competitor \$5,000 if he would not bid on the project. The competitor tape recorded the bribe offer and took it to federal investigators.

Rather than fight the government's antitrust lawyers, Timmerman agreed to cooperate. Over the next year, he helped gather evidence against others involved in rigging bids.

Timmerman pleaded guilty to bid-rigging and was sentenced in November 1999 to pay nearly \$300,000 in fines and restitution. But Timmerman also gave the U.S. Attorney's Office insight into widespread public corruption, said his lawyer Don Samuel.

From there, the investigation moved inward — from the suburb to the city, from businessmen to elected officials.

In June, Fulton County Commissioner Michael Hightower pleaded guilty to accepting a \$25,000 bribe from the George Greene, the founder of Sable Communications Co. The company that was paid \$11.5 million to make sure county computers were Y2K compliant. Greene also pleaded guilty to corruption.

Two days later, Josh Kenyon, chief of staff for the county commission's chairman, pleaded guilty to taking \$14,000 from Greene in exchange for promoting Sable to commissioners and for resolving payment problems.

But the first official sign that investigators were also looking at City Hall came later in June when Fred B. Prewitt, chairman of the Atlanta Civil Service Review Board and a close friend of the mayor, was

indicted for income tax fraud. Prewitt owns a construction firm that has been involved in at least \$950,000 worth of city contracts.

Campbell said federal investigators are unfairly targeting him and his friends in an attempt to ruin him politically.

"The federal authorities hauled (Prewitt) downtown, told him if he did not provide incriminating evidence against me he would be indicted for tax evasion, publicly embarrassed and he would be broken," Campbell said.

Prewitt's wife died of a stroke earlier this month. Campbell blamed the investigation for her death.

"You see these matters have a human toll," Campbell said.

In addition to the probe into city contracts, federal investigators are looking at Campbell's fund-raising and reports that he took bribes from a strip club owner — allegations Campbell calls ridiculous.

Campbell and his allies have called for a speedy conclusion to the investigation, saying it unfairly casts suspicion on Atlanta politicians. But based on the large number of documents subpoenaed last month, the investigation won't end anytime soon.

Black students' scores improve, but remain lower than whites

By Maria Samminiati
Associated Press Writer

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Black students in Virginia's public schools did substantially better on the Standards of Learning tests this year, but they are still lagging far behind their peers in overall performance, the state Department of Education said last Friday.

The students' scores improved on 20 of the 27 tests administered in different grades and subjects since last year, the department said. Since 1998, the first year

public school students took the test, black scores have improved on all but one test.

Over the past two years, the greatest improvement has come on mathematics and computer technology tests, with black fifth-graders improving by 24 points on Algebra I exams, 23 points on computer technology. Black eighth-graders, meanwhile, improved by 19 points on computer technology tests.

But while black students have

made bigger gains than white students since the testing began, black passing rates remain lower than the state average for every test.

"It's something that has concerned us a great deal," said Jim Calleran, director of communications with the Department of Education. The driving force behind the SOLs, Calleran said, was to create standards that all students had to meet.

"For a long time it was assumed that certain kids wouldn't

do very well, so they put them in low achieving classes and they wouldn't do so well," Calleran said. "The purpose of the SOLs was to raise teacher expectations for all students, and that process is taking time."

For instance, 58 percent of black eighth-graders passed the computer technology test this year, up from 39 percent in 1998. Yet 90 percent of Asian eighth-graders passed the same test, as did 85 percent of white students and 67 percent of Hispanics.

The state average passing rate for that same test was 78 percent in 2000.

"I don't think there's one answer as to why black students aren't doing as well as white students," said Vella Wright, director of research, testing and evaluation for Roanoke City Schools. "I don't think it's that easy."

Wright said training teachers and constantly evaluating the students' performance early in school can help educators improve the students' performance later.



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PraiseFest 2000 celebrates 'Renaissance of the Spirit'

Two-day gospel music extravaganza displays local and national talent

by G. Mattox
Contributing Writer

NEWARK — Gospel music. Its history is long and its roots are deep in American history. The blending of gospel and rhythm and blues created Soul music, and the inspirational message and rhythms of this music have spread from the cotton fields of the South to the country's largest concert halls and then on to places like Osaka, Japan.

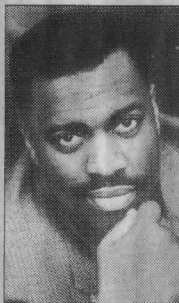
Newark is noted as being a major center for gospel music since Savoy Records, one of the nation's first labels to record and market the sound, made its headquarters in Newark over 60 years ago. Yet another chapter in the colorful history of this musical genre was made when PraiseFest 2000 takes place, bringing local artists to St. Luke A.M.E. Church to showcase their talents and national performers to Riverfront Stadium.

Gospel performer and PraiseFest founder Randy Jones has spearheaded the enormous task of bringing together a group

of community representatives from various sectors of the area to plan and support the event, and assembling award-winning gospel performers and talented local artists. Calling this event "a Renaissance of the Spirit in the Renaissance City," he notes that nothing like PraiseFest has ever been attempted in the greater-Newark area.

"We're making a statement by bringing together the largest number of artists in one place, in one city, in one day," he said of the eight-hour concert during a recent press conference on the steps of Newark City Hall. Several members of the City Council and Irvington Mayor Sara Bost were also on hand to lend their support.

"It's something that has been in my spirit for many years,"



John P. Kee



Tramaine Hawkins



Dr. Bobby Jones

Jones said, "Newark first and gospel music second can do this kind of event on a level with secular programs. If they can do the Budweiser Superfest, we have the means and resources to do the same thing in gospel."

The concert lineup of about 20 acts included Grammy Award winners Tramaine Hawkins and Newark's own Cissy Houston, Stellar Award recipient Donald Lawrence with his Tri-

City Singers, gospel favorites like the Georgia Mass Choir and its founder, Rev. Milton Bigham. John P. Kee with his New Life Community Choir and Alvin Darling and Celebration were also there. Also in the program were Gospel legend Dorothy Norwood and the hip-hop flavored Brent Jones and his Total Praise Mob, along with the debut performance of the PraiseFest 2000 Mass Choir. The guest host will be inter-

One Flesh.

Gospel Artist and Irvington resident Donald Malloy started his career over 20 years ago in a family group that opened for artists like the Dixie Hummingbirds and the Sensational Nightingales. He shot into national prominence with his participation in the 1992 "Salute to the Caravans" album and his rendition of "I'm Ready to Serve the Lord" is considered one of the greatest hits. Malloy

worked closely with Randy Jones in gathering the roster of gospel artists. "Relationships are the key," he said. "Gospel artists have the distinction of working together and supporting each other long before it was done in other types of music."

Both Malloy and Jones describe PraiseFest as "a community give back." "We talked about this vision about a year ago as something that need to be done," he said. "Newark is a gospel music capital and some of the greatest names in the business have performed and recorded in this town. We want to celebrate our history."

One of the people who worked hard over the past two decades to get Newark recognized as a gospel musical capital is Dr. Albert Lewis, president of the World Gospel Music Association. A lifelong resident of the city, Lewis says this event not only builds on the foundation of the city's standing in the gospel community, but also will touch some individual. "Introducing to the unchurched the young people, the history, spirit and emotion of gospel music, that's what it will do," he said of PraiseFest. "This music is rooted in this city, and more history will be made here."

Blacks and whites differ in funeral customs, businesses cater to racial divide

DURHAM (AP) — The cultural gap between blacks and whites is rarely more apparent than the differing ways family and friends commemorate the death of a loved one.

Funeral homes cater to the racial divide, preserving their customer base long after the end of segregation laws that established black department stores and white department stores.

"First of all, in the past, all of our institutions were segregated, one water fountain for whites and one for colored, as it was said back then. That has kind of held on through the years, and it remains that way," said Leon Jeffers, the manager of Scarborough & Hargett Funeral Home in Durham. The business handles arrangements for about 400 people a year, about 98 percent of them black, he said.

"Black people tend to prefer certain services that other people do not always prescribe to," Jeffers said.

There are about 700 funeral homes in the state with about a 50-50 racial split, said Larry Segal, executive director of the N.C. Funeral Directors

Association, considered the white funeral parlor group. The separation has thrived because of contrasting traditions in black and white funerals.

A black funeral tends to be a more open, all-day affair. White families opt for more graveside services, cremations and simple memorials, said Rosalind Mitchell, secretary-treasurer of the black trade association, Funeral Directors and Morticians Association of North Carolina.

Black funerals demand that the body of the person be present and intact, uncremated and ready to be viewed. White funerals tend to be shorter and sometimes at the graveside. Caskets are many times closed, and sometimes the person's ashes sit in an urn during a service, Segal said.

Black mourners head from church to the graveyard and then back to church again for dinner.

The funeral is more inclusive of the person's life with songs and testimonies and tributes. And of course after the burial we still take families back to the church," said Mitchell, who owns Mitchell and Fair Funeral Service in Salisbury.

Rev. Jackson can still make an altar call

By Phillip Rawls
Associated Press Writer

Jackson is urging college students to vote

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — The title "reverend" is often dropped before Jesse Jackson's name now that he is more famous for his political and diplomatic work. But make no mistake, the preacher still knows how to make an altar call. Only now it's political, too.

During recent visits to Alabama to fight two landfills, Jackson held voter registration drives at Tuskegee University and Alabama State University. They included music, a sermon and an altar call — much like last Sunday morning church.

College students are notorious for not registering and not voting, so Jackson began his sermon by describing the importance — and the power — of voting.

Voting gives a person more than the power to elect local, state and national officials. It allows a person to serve on juries and have a voice in how public funds are spent.

"It's even tied to school spirit,"

"Whether you get more resources than the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa is a matter of voting," he told cheering Alabama State students.

Now that the crowd was whipped up, Jackson turned to the guilt trip part of his ser-



Rev. Jesse Jackson

mon — talking about all the people who died to get blacks the right to vote.

"The Voting Rights Act was written in the blood of people from Selma to Montgomery," he said.

Not voting, he said, is "stabbing the hearts of martyrs" who died for the right to vote.

Then he asked everyone who was registered to vote to raise their right hand toward God.

Those who didn't were asked to stand and walk down from his pulpit. A few came at first, then more, then hundreds. Ushers were ready with voter registration forms and pens.

Students used each other's backs and the edge of the stage to hurriedly fill out the forms.

Alabama State freshman Laticia Calhoun said she hadn't bothered to register since turning 18 in January, but Jackson convinced her "when he told us we are somebody and our vote does matter."

Aristotle Kirkland said he had been registered as an undergraduate student at the University of Tennessee but hadn't taken the time to move his registration to Montgomery since entering graduate school at Alabama State.

Kirkland said he wouldn't have gone to Knoxville Nov. 7 to vote, so it was a good thing Jackson got him motivated.

Jackson's message worked, with hundreds registering to vote at each school.

But when Jackson was away from the students and talking to older citizens, many of whom worked in the civil rights movement, he sounded weary — like a minister who has shown his congregation the path to salvation many times, but some always go a different route to matter how hard he preaches.

"I walked down these roads begging George Wallace for the right to vote. Now I'm begging people to vote," he said.

Religious Calendar

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

NEWARK — "Be Careful What You Pray For," a gospel play, will be performed at the Sarah Vaughn Concert Hall at 8 p.m. For more information call (973) 643-8013.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

NEWARK — "Sisters in the Spirit" featuring Yolonda Adams, Shirley Caesar, and Mary Mary will perform at the Sarah Vaughn Concert Hall at 8 p.m. For more information call (973) 643-8013.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

NEWARK — "Woman, Thou Art Loosed," a gospel play, will be performed at the Sarah Vaughn Concert Hall at 8 p.m. For more information call (973) 643-8013.

Send your church and mosque information to:

RELIGIOUS PAGE EDITOR,
111 Mulberry St., Suite 1-F,
Newark, NJ 07102

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N. Broad St. & Rt. 27 at Post Office
Freightway @ Firehouse

■ Irvington

Springfield Ave. & Clinton Ave. Terminal
New Street
Springfield Ave. & New St. Taxi
Civic Square at City Hall
Springfield Ave. & Maple St. (Dunkin' Donuts)
Springfield Ave. @ Post Office

■ Paterson

Broadway St. @ Hospital
Broadway St. @ D&D @ Court House
Market St. & Corner Downtown
Market St. & Cort St. @ McDonalds
Gordon Carfield Plaza
Dill Plaza & Crosby Pl. @ Post Office

■ Plainfield

Watchung Ave. & E. 2nd St. @ C. Store
Park Ave. & Fifth St. by Red Tower
Park Ave. & Seventh St. by Scott's Drug Store
Arlington Ave. & Woodbine Ave. @ Post Office
Rock Ave. off Myrtle St. at Plaza Health Center
South Ave. Blockbuster Video

■ East Orange Orange

Central Ave. & Maple St. at Dunkin' Donuts #1
Central Ave. & S. Clinton Ave. at Corner
Central Ave. & Halsted St. @ A.P.S.

Central Ave. & Halsted St. at Dunkin' Donuts #2
Central Ave. & Evergreen St.
Central Ave. & S. Harrison St.
Main St. at Post Office
Main St. & Cleveland N.
Main St. & S. Day St.
Main St. & Lincoln St. at DMV
Main St. at Diner
Main St. @ Across from Strauss Auto
Main St. & Northday

■ Newark

MLK Blvd. & 13th St.
West Market & MLK Blvd @ Bus Stop
UMD South Orange Ave. Entrance
Bergen St. Pathmark
University St. & New St. at University Rutgers Hosp.
Market St. & Washington St. (Old Macy's)
Market St. & Halsey St. @ Bus Stop
Broad St. & Hill St.
Broad Street & Commerce
Park Place at Bus Stop
Park Pl. at Travelodge Hotel
Washington Pl. at Washington Library
Broad St. & Division St. @ Baseball Stadium
Broad Street & Union More
Broad St. @ Broad St. Station Bus Stop
Broad St. @ Washington Park
Raymond Blvd. @ Subway
Raymond Blvd. @ Horizon Market
Raymond Blvd. @ NJ Transit Building
Market St. & Raymond Plaza W @ Bus Term.
Corner of Market & Mulberry on Gateway side
Mulberry St. @ Gateway
Broad St. & Raymond Blvd. @ Subway
Franklin St. off Broad St. at Mari Post Office



Attorney General makes racial profiling records public

By John P. McAlpin
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey residents will be able to view more than 50,000 state police documents related to racial profiling by troopers; records now being sought by defense attorneys.

Attorney General John J. Farmer Jr. told The Associated Press on Friday the public deserves to examine these documents. "I've decided to make these documents public outside the context of litigation," Farmer said.

Attorneys claimed these records would prove biased troopers tainted hundreds of arrests. A state Superior Court judge in Burlington County ruled defendants should have access to all records related to motor vehicle stops on the New Jersey Turnpike dating back to 1993.

Now all of those criminal cases will be reviewed by the Attorney General's Office to see if charges should be dismissed, Farmer said.

The state estimates 190 defendants are involved in 130 prosecutions. Most of those cases are now being handled by county prosecutors.

Farmer directed his staff to have the exact number of cases and all circumstances detailed by Oct. 1 so the state can decide if the constitutional rights of any defendants were violated by racial profiling.

Farmer will decide when and how the records will be available later that month.

"At a minimum, we will have some kind of reading room available," the attorney general said.

Defense attorneys sought the records to prove their point, but now Farmer says all residents of New Jersey should see them.

"I think you'll see the results of an agency trying to come to grips with a very difficult issue," Farmer said.

The documents are mostly technical and include radio logs, operational reports and other state police records. Residents will not be overwhelmed by the volume of paper involved, Farmer said. "I think there are a number of documents that are easily digestible for the public," he said.

In Burlington County, the judge ordered the state to provide the defense with internal reports, traffic data, arrest reports, personnel records and raw data used to compile two attorney general's reports that detailed State Police racial profiling.

That ruling, issued in October 1999, applies to the turnpike and traffic stops made by troopers since January 1993.

In November, a Superior Court judge in Morris County said the state should disclose materials related to arrests on Oct. 1 and pushed the date back to 1990.

Those rulings came in criminal cases where defendants, mostly minorities charged with drug offenses, claim their arrests came after they were stopped primarily because of their race.

The Attorney General's Office initially fought those orders, claiming there was simply too much information to release.

The delay in providing the information to the court is one reason Farmer cited for his decision. "I think it's been long enough. We were starting to get some questions like why is this taking so long. Frankly, they're legitimate," Farmer said.

Charges of racial profiling became widely public after April 23, 1998, when two white troopers on the turnpike fired 11 shots at a van carrying four men, all minorities.

In April 1999, then Attorney General Peter Verniero released a report that said racial profiling is "real, not imagined." The report acknowledges blacks are not only pulled over more often, they are far more likely to be searched than whites.

Three months later, Farmer issued a second State Police report detailing poor handling of citizen complaints and racial discrimination within the ranks.

Report: 13.7% of NJ kids in poverty

The children's defense fund releases children in the states 2000 reports

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A comprehensive, state-by-state study, "Children in the States 2000" published by The Children's Defense Fund profiles how the states fare in protecting children in several categories.

Children's health is examined through data on uninsured children, state-specific information on the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility, prenatal care, low weight births, infant mortality, child immunizations, and the teen birth rate.

Child care help is explained through the number of families that receive child care subsidies, the income of families on assistance, the number of children allowed in licensed child care facilities, and whether training is

provided for child care staffs.

Family income is explored through recent information on the number of poor children in the state, along with participation rates in the food stamp program, Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), School Lunch and Breakfast programs, and Child and Adult Care Food Programs (CACFP).

Child Safety in each state is assessed by reports of total firearm deaths of children and teens, Child Access Prevention (CAP) Laws and Trigger Lock Laws, as well as numbers of children reported to be victims of abuse or neglect.

Education in the state is compared to the national average in terms of class sizes, 4th grade

reading proficiency, high school completion rates, and expenditures per pupil.

"Children in the States 2000" shows that living conditions for children can vary greatly depending on where they live.

Vermont ranked first in the nation with only 6.4 percent of the nation without health insurance. However, Arizona and Texas rank last with 25.9 percent and 25.3 percent, respectively, for children without health coverage.

Vermont and Kentucky rank first and second with regard to the percentage of two-year-olds fully immunized, with percentages of 90.5 percent and 87.6 percent, respectively. Idaho and Oregon are last with 69.4 percent and 72.3 percent, respectively.

New Hampshire leads the nation at 89.6 percent for babies born to mothers receiving early prenatal care, with Rhode Island second at 89.5 percent.

The District of Columbia and New Mexico rank last at 66.6 percent and 70.2 percent, respectively.

"Children in the States 2000" is a tool for advocates, community leaders, journalists and lawmakers who want to learn about and understand the true conditions under which many children live. The Children's Defense Fund hopes the information in this study will be used to improve the lives of all children in America, and that states will do more for children now being over-



looked or neglected.

"Children in the States 2000" is available online at www.childrensdefense.org and www.cdfactioncouncil.org. For more information about the report call (202) 662-3609.

New Jersey's national rankings in children's welfare

With 1 being the best and 51 being the worst:

New Jersey ranks 37th in the percentage of children without health insurance, 1996-1998

New Jersey ranks 36th in the percentage of babies born to mothers who received early prenatal care, 1997

New Jersey ranks 14th in infant mortality, 1997

New Jersey ranks 36th in the percentage of low birthweight births (7.9 percent). Nationally, the percentage is 7.5 percent, 1997

New Jersey ranks 22nd in child immunizations for two-year-olds, 1999

New Jersey ranks 7th in the percentage of children in poverty, 1998

New Jersey ranks 49th in its lowest fair market rent as a percentage of the minimum wage, 2000

New Jersey ranks 14th in its child support enforcement, 1997

New Jersey ranks 1st in per pupil expenditures in the public schools, 1995-1999

Ensuring every New Jersey child a healthy start

In New Jersey, 243,000 children have no health insurance (16.1 percent of children under age 19) in 1996-1998. Nationally, 11.9 million are uninsured (15.6 percent of children under 19) in 1998.

New Jersey ranks 37th in the percentage of children without health insurance, 1996-1998

In New Jersey, the combination Medicaid expansion program and NJ KidCare (the state CHIP program) cover children through 19 years old up to 350 percent of the poverty level (\$49,525 per year for a family of three).

12-Month Continuous Eligibility: Chip: No Medicaid: No Presumptive Eligibility: Chip: Yes Medicaid: Yes

As of June 2000, New Jersey had

an estimated \$2.0 million unspent Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funds from its FY 1998 allotment.

New Jersey ranks 36th in the percentage of babies born to mothers who received early prenatal care (81.3 percent). Nationally, 82.5 percent of babies are born to mothers who received early prenatal care, 1997

New Jersey ranks 36th in the percentage of low birthweight births (7.9 percent). Nationally, the percentage is 7.5 percent, 1997

New Jersey ranks 14th in infant mortality (6.3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births), compared to 7.2 per 1,000 nationally, 1997

New Jersey ranks 22nd in child immunizations for two-year-olds (80.8 percent). Nationally, the percentage is 78.4 percent, 1999

New Jersey's teen birth rate is 35.0 per 1,000 females ages 15-19. Nationally, the rate is 52.3 per 1,000, 1997

Ensuring every New Jersey child a healthy start

In New Jersey, 55.9 percent of mothers with children under 6 and 75.2 percent of mothers with children ages 6 to 17 are in the labor force. Nationally, 59.7 percent of mothers with children under 6 and 75 percent of

mothers with children ages 6 to 17 are in the labor force, 1990

Only New Jersey families with annual incomes below \$27,760 for a family of three qualify for childcare help. Federal law allows the state to serve families with annual incomes up to \$48,828, 1999

In New Jersey, childcare for a four-year-old in a childcare center in an urban area averages \$4,628 per year, more than the cost of public college tuition in the state — \$4,269, 1998

14,443 New Jersey children were served by Head Start in 1999. In the 50 states plus the District of Columbia, 725,728 children were served in 1999.

In New Jersey, a single caregiver in a center can care for as many as 20 four-year-olds, 1998

New Jersey does require providers in childcare centers to have early childhood training before serving children.

Childcare workers in New Jersey earn an average annual income of \$16,780, 1998

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In New Jersey, a single caregiver in a center can care for as many as 20 four-year-olds, 1998

was \$12,516 a year (\$1,043 a month). In the United States, 14,402,480 children (20.5 percent) were poor.

•New Jersey ranks 7th in the percentage of children in poverty, 1999

•Between August 1998 and June 1999, New Jersey's welfare caseload dropped 42.1 percent from 275,537 to 158,721. In the United States, the welfare caseload dropped 44 percent from 12,241,489 to 6,773,700.

•In FY 1998, 217,987 children in New Jersey received food stamps. Food stamp participation in New Jersey dropped by 22.7 percent from FY 1998 to FY 1998. Nationally, 10,518,978 children received food stamps in 1998, a 20.2 percent decline from FY 1996.

•In New Jersey, the maximum monthly cash assistance benefit for a family of three is \$424. Nationally, the median state's maximum monthly cash assistance benefit for a family of three is \$379, January 1998

•In New Jersey, there were 129,490 participants in the Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) in FY 1999. Nationally, WIC had 7,086,548 participants in FY 1999.

•\$68,562 New Jersey children

participated in the School Lunch Program in FY 1999. Nationally, 20,470,702 children participated in FY 1999.

•\$4,634 New Jersey children participated in the School Breakfast Program in FY 1999. Nationally, 7,155,006 children participated in FY 1999.

•There were 47,973 New Jersey participants in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in FY 1999. Nationally, there were 2,633,814 participants in FY 1999.

•There were 61,124 New Jersey children in the Summer Food Program in FY 1999. Nationally, there were 2,188,779 participants in FY 1999.

Enabling every New Jersey child a safe start

•In New Jersey, in 1997, there were 53 total firearm deaths of children and teens, including 7 suicides, 43 homicides, 3 accidents, and 0 of unknown intent. Nationally, in 1997, there were 4,205 total firearm deaths of children and teens, including 1,282 suicides, 2,562 homicides, 300 accidents, and 75 of unknown intent.

•New Jersey has a Child Access Prevention (CAP) Law and has a Trigger Lock Law.

•In New Jersey, in 1998, 8,651 children were victims of abuse and neglect, a 49.8 percent decrease since 1990. 538.6 percent of these were victims of neglect.

•In New Jersey, the proportion of minorities in the juvenile population is 37 percent, but the proportion of minority juveniles within public juvenile detention centers and public detention centers is 86 percent. Nationally, in 1997, minorities comprised 34 percent of the juvenile population, yet account for 67 percent of those within public juvenile detention centers.

Exercise your right to vote

Easy ways to register by Oct. 9

What happens in the

for you to complete your voter registration:

(1) Visit one of many online sites that allow you to register online including:

<http://www.election.com>

<http://www.voter.com>

You will be guided through the registration process and will then receive a form in the mail that you have to sign, mail, and send to the address provided.

(2) Download the National Mail Voter Registration Form from the Federal Election Commission web site at

<http://www.fec.gov/votereg/vr.htm>. This will allow you to register to vote from anywhere in the United States using the form that is specific for your state.

(3) Register in person at your local board of elections. You can determine the location by calling your state's board of elections or by visiting the New Jersey Board of Elections Web site at

<http://www.state.nj.us/pelections/index.html> or calling (609) 292-3760.



how much and how financial aid and scholarships are distributed, to public health policy, and even how often trash collection takes place in your community. Be a part of it.

Voter registration has never been easier, but you must register to vote in New Jersey (if you are US citizen and NJ resident) by Oct. 9, 2000. Take action NOW to ensure that you are able to vote in the election of Nov. 7, 2000. Remember, if you have moved since the last time you voted, you need to complete a new form. Here are three options

State says reforms are working

By John P. McAlpin
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Better training, improved paper work and computer-collected statistics on motor vehicle stops will show New Jersey is working to reform the state police, state authorities claim.

The first report card from a court-ordered federal monitor is expected last Wednesday and state officials predict favorable marks.

After one year on the job, New Jersey's director of state police reforms admitted much more is needed, but said basic changes were required to insure the success of programs designed to eliminate racial profiling by troopers.

Much of what has been done are first steps in complying with the agreement between New Jersey and the U.S. Attorney's Office to end discrimination, Martin Cronin said.

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Ford Motor Company

THE FIRESTONE RECALL: A SAFETY UPDATE

DO YOU NEED TO REPLACE YOUR TIRES?

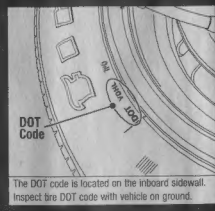
WHICH TIRES ARE AFFECTED?

- All Firestone ATX and ATX II of P235/75R15 size
- P235/75R15 Firestone Wilderness AT tires produced in Firestone's Decatur, Illinois plant

NO OTHER FIRESTONE TIRES ARE PART OF THIS RECALL

EXAMINE YOUR TIRES

To determine if your 15" Wilderness ATs are affected, find the U.S. DOT Safety Standard Code. (Simply look under your vehicle with a flashlight. There is no need to raise the vehicle.) If the code reads DOT VDHL on any or all of your tires, they should be replaced.



1. TIRE PRESSURE UPDATE.

For ten years, the recommended tire pressure for 15" tires on Explorer vehicles has been 26 psi, endorsed by both Firestone and Goodyear.

Although the Goodyear tires and non-recalled Firestone tires continue to perform at world-class safety levels at 26 psi, Firestone is now recommending that their P235/75R15 tires be inflated to 30 psi, which is within the 26-30 psi range approved by Ford.

In order to avoid any confusion, we are advising Explorer (plus Mercury Mountaineer and Mazda Navajo) owners with Firestone P235/75R15 tires to follow Firestone's recommendation and set their tire pressure at 30 psi.

2. ALL AFFECTED TIRES CAN BE REPLACED BY END OF NOVEMBER.

To date, over 3.2 million tires (49% of recalled tires) have already been replaced. We continue to increase tire production from other manufacturers, including Goodyear and Michelin, and are now receiving thousands of tires from these sources to ensure your affected tires can be replaced by the end of November. (To find the most current list of certified replacement tires, see the Firestone Recall Information Center at www.ford.com.)

3. HOW TO REPLACE YOUR TIRES.

First, check the box on the left to see if your tires are affected. If your tires are part of the Firestone recall, make an appointment with an authorized Ford, Mercury or Mazda dealer, or see an authorized Firestone retailer.

To find the outlet nearest you, go to www.ford.com, click on the Firestone Information Box and select your preferred outlet under "Locate An Authorized Replacement Center".

If you are unable to find certified tires at any of the authorized replacement outlets, you may be able to find certified replacement tires at another tire retailer. If so, have your recalled Firestone tires replaced and bring them to your Ford, Mercury, Mazda dealer or the nearest Firestone retailer and they will provide you with a claim form to speed your reimbursement from Firestone.

4. IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION.

Contact the Firestone Information Recall Center at www.ford.com. If you have any further questions or concerns, call us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (800) 660-4719, or e-mail us at tireinquiry@ford.com.

Zone

Continued from A-1

economic encouragement," Rice said.

He said the continuation of the zone is also important for the transition of welfare to work.

"In Newark, because of UEZ there are incentives for businesses to come here, and it helps the businesses already here," said Rice. "Also, the more we get rid of urban decay here, and rebuild, the more that will spill over to our sister cities."

"I applaud Senator Rice for introducing the legislation," said East Ward Councilman Augusto Amador. "One of the complaints from the neighborhoods have been that there hasn't been enough development. This bill would give it a boost."

Rice said the UEZ bill would also help improve quality of life in Newark. "If we have shop owners putting out greenery, and other aesthetics to improve their stores, homeowners will see that value," he said.

"If we do this right, we'll see families walking along on Broad Street, just out for a stroll."

Felons

Continued from A-1

Those four states impose a lifetime ban on voting by felons. The other five states with lifetime bans are Iowa, Kentucky, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming.

After declining in the early 1970s, the prison population in the United States has grown dramatically. More than 2 million people were behind bars last year, according to the Justice Department.

Crime rates have been dropping since 1993, but longer sentences, especially for drug crimes and violent crimes, help account for higher prison populations, with drug-related sentences falling disproportionately on blacks.

In Delaware, where lawmakers in June approved a bill that amends the state constitution to restore voting rights for some felons, proponents argued that barring felons from voting after they leave prison dates back to a time when only white, male landowners were allowed to cast ballots.

The new Delaware law grants voting rights to all those except murderers, sex offenders and those convicted of felony bribery. Felons there and in Pennsylvania must now wait five years after completing their sentence before seeking restored voting rights.

David Bossitis, senior political analyst of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a think tank that researches policy issues concerning blacks and other minorities, said most Americans favor restoring voting rights to felons after they've served their time, citing a survey in which 73 percent of respondents called voting "a fundamental right of citizenship."

The Rev. Jesse Jackson called disenfranchisement "taxation without representation," saying the issue goes to the heart of the civil rights movement, which fought for equal access to citizenship for all Americans.

"Whether you're black, white or brown, once you serve your sentence to society, you should have your vote restored," he said. "If you don't have your vote restored, it's a life sentence."

But victims' advocates say felons — especially those convicted of violent crimes — should lose their right to vote.

Sam Rieger, president of Survivors of Homicide, based in Westfield, Conn., said voting rights are likely irrelevant to most felons.

"Offering that carrot is not going to accomplish anything," he said.

NJ Black Issues Leadership Convention kicks off

By Kelly Foster

For the past 18 years, New Jersey officials and community leaders have been gathering at the New Jersey Black Issues Convention (NJBIC) to address the issues that affect the state's black population.

The theme for this year's annual convention, which was held last week at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark, was "Reassessing the Vision... Making the Connection," and reviewed where blacks have come and where they are headed in New Jersey, Newark Councilman Donald Tucker said.

Tucker started the NJBIC in 1983 at the suggestion of the Congressional Black Caucus, as a way to increase awareness of black issues on a statewide level.

"I reached out to different groups... and got leaders together to create an entity to make sure to get a message to the state legislature," he said. "We communicate with black elected officials and white officials, to get our community needs addressed."

On opening day, the convention addressed the needs of senior citizens. Senator Ronald Rice (D-Essex) said seniors often do not receive the necessary information



Newark Councilman Donald Tucker addresses an audience at the New Jersey Black Issues Convention.

from the government that impacts their lives. He said grandparenting issues are a big concern for seniors.

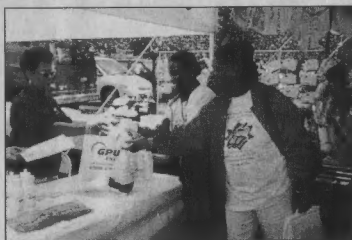
"A lot of grandparents are taking care of grandchildren and when they reach out for assistance, often they can't get it because they're not legal guardians," he said.

Tucker said he was concerned about seniors on limited incomes paying for medicines with Social Security benefits. "Most people on Social Security with no other income are black," he said. "If they're spending \$200-\$300 a month on medication, that cuts

into their Social Security grant."

"There are so many issues affecting seniors. I feel they're being neglected," Ruby Williams, a convention participant from Newark, said.

Another major focus was concerns about education, Tucker said, particularly the age and deterioration of urban schools. Approximately 25 percent of urban schools are over 100 years old, he said. "In order to improve the schools, first we have to improve the physical plant. We need state funding for educating our children," he said.



Representatives from GPU Energy answer customers' questions at the Energy Choice booth.

Morrisville — GPU Energy conducted its New Jersey Energy Choice program at the 13th Annual Festival of the Art & Heritage of African Americans educating consumers about electric competition.

In this well-known event, GPU Energy representatives distributed educational materials that explain the changes and describe the options customers have when shopping for a new electric supplier. Changes in the electric industry provide consumers in New Jersey with the opportunity to choose their electricity supplier based on their needs and preferences. By conducting such programs, GPU Energy is working to increase its customers' understanding of Energy Choice in the State for them to be able to bene-

fit from the opportunity to shop for a new electric generation supplier.

This festival brought a full day of activities for the entire family including an art exhibition, gospel show, African dancers, children's activities and games. The proceeds from this festival went to the Garden State Cultural Center Fund, which have provided free arts programs for New Jersey seniors and school children for the past thirty-two years. Visitors also enjoyed delicious food and products displayed by area residents.

GPU Energy supports energy competition because it believes competition will benefit consumers and the State of New Jersey. Call GPU's Choice Center at 1-888-478-2300.

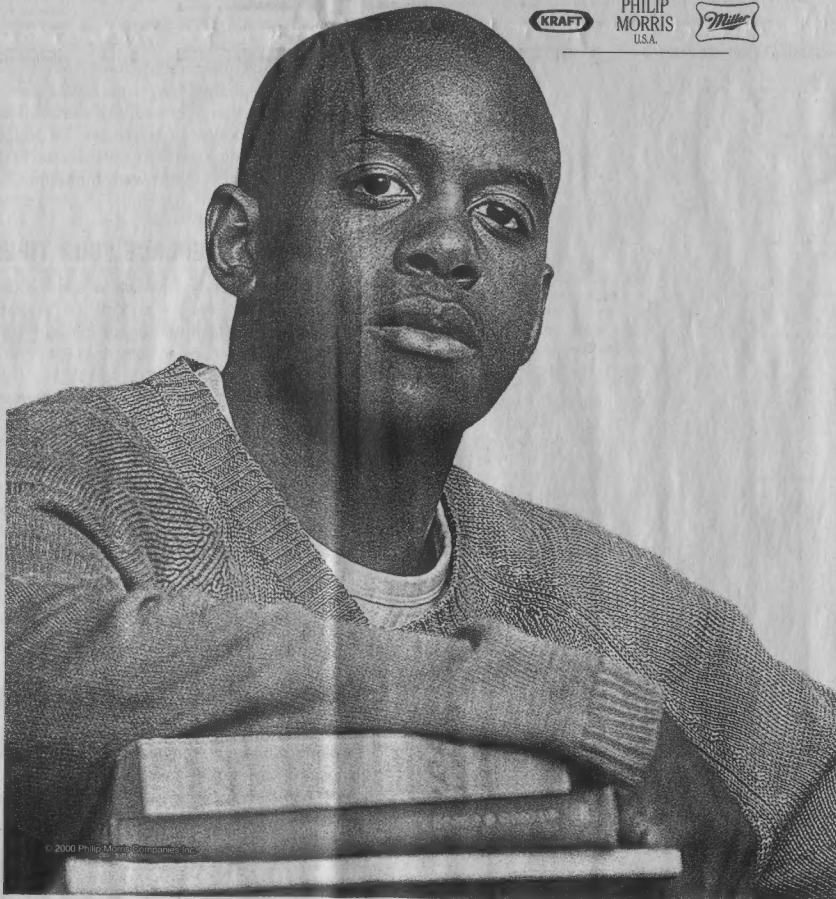
Jared had the grades and the determination. Now he's got the tuition, too.

Thanks to the Philip Morris Companies' contributions to the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, honor student Jared Reeves got a full 4-year scholarship. For the last 13 years, the Philip Morris Companies have been the Fund's largest donor, helping thousands of deserving students

get the opportunity they've earned. Philip Morris also supports over 350 educational organizations that help strengthen local communities.

To learn more, visit philipmorris.com. Working to make a difference.

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Closing the book on hate

Barnes & Noble, Inc., the nation's largest book-seller and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the premier organization in the fight against racism, anti-Semitism and bigotry, announced an unprecedented and highly ambitious joint campaign entitled, Close the Book on Hate.

The purpose of this nationwide effort is to provide children and their parents, caregivers, teachers and civic leaders with the tools, resources and programs they need to better understand and help eliminate prejudice and discrimination in their communities. While the goal of Close the Book on Hate is to gain respect for all types of differences, the campaign emphasizes fighting racism, anti-Semitism and homophobia.

Former New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley, a longtime advocate of racial unity, is serving as the honorary chairman for Close the Book on Hate.

"Despite the growth of the U.S. economy, advances in technology and our leadership of the free world, hate, racism and bigotry still invade our schools, homes and places of business," Bradley said. "Now is the time for us to re-commit ourselves to embracing diversity and celebrating our differences. I applaud the work of Barnes & Noble and the Anti-Defamation League to give children and adults the tools they need to make this happen in their own communities and schools."

In that vein, Scholastic is publishing the definitive book for parents and children on confronting and conquering bias and encouraging appreciation for our differences. Hate Hurts (Scholastic; \$9.95; Ages: Adult).

Created by the ADL, Hate Hurts is a powerful tool for parents, teachers and others involved in shaping our youth. It offers basic principles, skills and strategies lessons, along with real-life scenarios to help teach children to turn the fear and pain of prejudice into the courage and cooperation of understanding and respect.

Divided into three parts, Hate Hurts illustrates how children perceive differences at successive stages of their development and explains how to appreciate differences and resist forming biases about them. It includes true stories about children of different ages and backgrounds who have either been the objects or the perpetrators of hateful words and actions, or have observed or challenged hate directed at someone else. The book also offers specific advice on how to respond when the children in one's life face similar situations. In the last section, Hate Hurts provides guidelines for challenging and resisting biased material and information.

As noted in the introduction of Hate Hurts, "Prejudice is contagious. When people are afraid or have actually been hurt, it may be a natural response to want to hurt back. But hurting one another only escalates the hatred and violence — and the differences don't go away. We live in a world of differences — different races, religions, cultures, sexual orientations, abilities."

The book equips parents and educators for the vital task of teaching children of all ages not to hate and includes tips for creating an atmosphere that celebrates respect and diversity. The book also includes a list of resources, including organizations, Websites, reference books, and age-appropriate children's books.

Hate in the news:

Black, white students suspended after fight over Rebel flag shirt

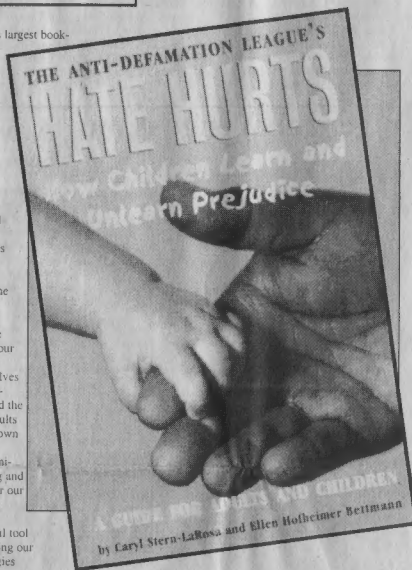
TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Two Holt High School students — one white, one black — were suspended after getting into a fight over the white youth's Confederate flag T-shirt.

Principal Cliff Booth said clothing with images of the Rebel flag were banned this year, but a few white students have continued to wear the Confederate symbol, which many blacks consider an offensive symbol of racism and slavery.

A 15-year-old black boy and a 14-year-old white

boy wearing a Confederate T-shirt got into a fight shortly after arriving at school last Wednesday. Booth said he was unsure sure how the fight started, but there were allegations the white student used a racial slur.

The black student was suspended for three days, and the white student was sent home for four. Booth said the white student received the extra day for lying to an administrator when he claimed he did not know the flag had been banned.



Above left: William I. Dawson from the National Urban League and Former Senator Bill Bradley at the kickoff for the joint campaign, sponsored by Barnes & Noble and the Anti-Defamation League. Below is Caryl Stern-LaRosa, co-author of "Hate Hurts: How Children Learn and Unlearn Prejudice."

WEB LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION

- American College Personnel Association — www.acpa.nche.edu
- Association of College Unions International — www.acuiweb.org
- Boys and Girls Clubs of America — www.bgca.org
- Children's Defense Fund — www.childrensdefense.org
- Committee of 100 — www.committee100.org
- Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation — www.glaad.org
- Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network — www.glsen.org
- Human Rights Campaign — www.hrc.org
- Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics — www.leap.org
- National Association for Campus Activities — www.naca.org
- National Association for Multicultural Education — www.inform.umd.edu/nante
- National Association for Student Personnel Administrators — www.naspa.org
- National Campaign Against Youth Violence — www.noyv.net
- National Conference for Community & Justice — www.nccj.org
- National Congress of American Indians — www.ncai.org
- National Council of La Raza — www.nclr.org
- National Education Association — www.nea.org
- National Gay and Lesbian Task Force — www.nglft.org
- National Italian American Foundation — www.niaf.org
- National Middle School Association — www.nmsa.org
- National PTA — www.pta.org
- National Urban League — www.nul.org
- Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society — www.sportinsociety.org
- Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians & Gays — www.pflag.org
- Safe Schools Coalition, Inc. — www.ed.mtu.edu/safe

Ways to combat prejudice

Begin at home

- Know your roots and share your pride in your heritage with others.
- Celebrate holidays with extended family. Use such opportunities to encourage storytelling and share personal experiences across generations.
- Invite friends from backgrounds different from your own to experience the joy of your traditions and customs.
- Be mindful of your language; avoid stereotypical remarks and challenge those made by others.
- Speak out against jokes and slurs that target people or groups. Silence sends a message that you are in agreement. It is not enough to refuse to laugh.
- Be knowledgeable; provide as much accurate information as

possible to reject harmful myths and stereotypes. Discuss as a family the impact of prejudicial attitudes and behavior.

- Plan family outings to diverse neighborhoods in and around your community and visit local museums, galleries and exhibits that celebrate art forms of different cultures.
- Visit important landmarks in your area associated with the struggle for human and civil rights such as museums, public libraries and historic sites.
- Research your family tree and trace your family's involvement in the struggle for civil and human rights or the immigration experience. Identify personal heroes and positive role models.

Read and encourage your children to read books that promote

understanding of different cultures as well as those that are written by authors of diverse backgrounds.

In your school

- Recite a unifying pledge against prejudice created by your student body at a school-wide assembly.
- Display a poster-size version of the pledge in a prominent area of your school and encourage people to sign it.
- Establish a diversity club that serves as an umbrella organization to promote harmony and respect for differences. Reach out to sports teams, drama clubs and language clubs for ideas and involvement. If your school already has a diversity club, hold a membership drive.
- Initiate classroom discussions in

terms such as anti-Semitism, racism, sexism, homophobia, and bias. Then compose a list of definitions and post it in a prominent place.

- Invite a motivational speaker who is a recognized civil or human rights leader to address an all-school assembly. Videotape the speech and publish an interview with the speaker in the school and local newspapers.
- Organize an essay contest whose theme is either a personal experience with prejudice or a success story in the fight against it. Suggest that the winning entries be published in your school newspaper, featured in your town newspaper, highlighted on a local cable program, or sent to the ADL office.
- Create an anti-prejudice slogan for your school that could be printed as a bumper sticker and sold in the wider community to raise

funds for these efforts.

- Hold a "Rock Against Racism" concert, or a dance-a-thon, bike-a-thon, car wash, or battle-of-the-bands and donate the proceeds from ticket sales to underwrite diversity training and other programs for the school.
- Form a student-faculty committee to write "Rules of Respect" for your school and display the finished set of rules in every classroom.
- Invite your district police chief or a representative from the attorney general's office to speak to your school about civil rights, hate crimes and other legal aspects of the fight against prejudice.
- Designate a wall space on or near school grounds where graffiti with a harmonious and unifying message can be written, drawn or painted.

Horoscope

IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Your closest relationships are stable for now, but your inner voice may be prompting you to take time alone for self-renewal. Professional advancement is at hand, so keep your eye on the straight and narrow. Your creative urges may turn into profit.

ARIES
(March 21-April 20)

Your mood might be cranky, resulting from tensions either at home or at work. Speak softly and avoid any disagreements with others. You are in a practical frame of mind and sharp in matters of finance and love.

Taurus
(April 21-May 21)

Spend extra time with family — fun and adventure will be highly lighted. It may be the perfect opportunity for a heart-to-heart talk with your children. Roadblocks are likely in realizing a financial goal, yet closer than you think. Your passion deepens.

GEMINI
(May 22-June 21)

You and your mate get along throughout the entire week. All those chores that really need to get done will be accomplished like clockwork. Your career is highlighted, so don't be surprised if you receive a raise or promotion. Keep your patience around children.

CANCER
(June 22-July 23)

Start the week in a practical frame of mind. Take time alone and treat yourself to something that will make you feel extra special. Some co-workers are be critical and sarcastic, but otherwise work runs smoothly. Your career is about to take a big step forward. Managers are impressed with your effort.

LEO
(July 24-August 23)

Listen to a friend's advice on money matters, an objective point of view is what you need. Your sweetheart may be feeling neglected, and accuse you of unrealistic expectations, so make the time for romance and no money. It's time for a few practical steps to improve your image.

VIRGO
(August 24-September 23)

There will probably be a strong urge to immerse yourself in new pursuits. Keep an open mind and you may be pleasantly surprised at the results. Both business and household projects enjoy favorable influences; and you may get a bonus for recently positive efforts.

LIBRA
(September 24-October 23)

The more you depend on who reserves, the stronger you are. You inspire family members likewise. There are some self-doubts lingering which only you can work through. Self-improvement efforts will succeed. Remember - if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all.

SCORPIO
(October 24-November 22)

Spend time with close friends and you'll find that your friendships and loves are very fulfilling. There is someone trying to undermine your position with flattery and bribery. Keep your cool. There will be great news about money, and possibly a new, lucrative job offer.

SAGITTARIUS
(November 23-December 21)

It will be an effortless and pleasurable week for you. Keep in mind you do have the power to make all sorts of changes for the better. Everyone seems overly emotional as of late, so be on guard for lies and accusations. Harmony will be restored at home by week's end.

CAPRICORN
(December 22-January 20)

Wherever you are, you will be surrounded by friendship and luck. Unexpected money is coming your way. Both family and work responsibilities are heavy, take one situation at a time. Be aware that guidance comes through your dreams. Positive vibes continue at home.

AQUARIUS
(January 21-February 19)

You need to travel in order to check out an opportunity to increase your income. Don't neglect a marriage that's starving for attention. Both your professional image and reputation is boosted to new levels. Your charm and magnetism take you through any sticky situations right now.

PISCES
(February 20-March 20)

It's a week of heavy mental stimulation and challenges. Both intuitive and unconventional approaches work. Your assertiveness takes you far at work and your family's happy and enjoys being together. Plan your entertainment and include others from the sideline.

Marriage number two: Including the children

KANSAS CITY, MO. — When Nancy Eljwanger told her five-year-old son Jeremy that she was going to marry David Scott, the youngster initially seemed pleased. After all, Jeremy had grown quite fond of David, who always found the time to play a game or talk about sports with the rambunctious kindergarten.

"But then Jeremy started asking a lot of strange questions," Nancy recalls. "He wanted to know what a stand was supposed to do. He was especially troubled that I was going to change my last name. It was clear he was afraid things might be different after we got married."

The questions continued despite Nancy and David's ongoing efforts to assure Jeremy and his 16-year-old sister Nicole that they would be on the verge of losing their mother to a husband who would somehow get all the love and attention.

The Pennsylvania couple was grappling with a problem experienced by most of the more than one million single parents who remain in the U.S. each year: What can be done to ease the concerns of children who feel, on a conscious or unconscious level, that their secure place in the family is threatened by the pending marriage of a parent?

After much research, Nancy found a simple and emotionally satisfying answer to the couple's dilemma in the form of a family-oriented wedding service that gives children a meaningful role in the wedding nuptials.

This five-minute ceremony — known as the Family Medallion service — can easily be integrated into any religious or civil wedding ceremony. It differs from the traditional wedding in only one respect: After the newlyweds exchange rings, their children join them for a special service focusing on the family nature of remarriage. Each child is given a gold or silver medal with three interlocking circles, a symbol that represents family love in much the same way the wedding ring signifies conjugal love.

The Scotts say they will never forget the moment during their wedding when Jeremy and Nicole were summoned to their sides to participate in the family wedding service.

The family wedding concept is an idea whose time has come now that at least one-third of all new marriages in the U.S. involve divorced or widowed parents with children under 18 living in the home, according to the Stepfamily Association of America. The reality is that virtually no religious or civil wedding ceremony acknowledges the existence of youngsters.

Nancy Scott learned this the hard way. "I was going crazy searching for something significant to do for my children during the wedding," she said. "I couldn't find a family-oriented wedding ceremony. And all the wedding products in stores and bridal magazines were geared toward first-time brides not a 36-year-old woman with children."

This void also frustrated Dr. Roger

Coleman, Chaplain of Pilgrim Chapel in Kansas City, Missouri, who developed the Family Medallion and the family ceremony that goes with it. "The so-called traditional wedding ceremony does not serve the needs of couples with children from previous relationships," he explains. "That's because traditional weddings focus exclusively on the union of a man and a woman. The important role of existing children and the family nature of remarriage is simply ignored."

Today, there are 15,000 couples a year — primarily in the U.S., Canada and Europe — use the Family Medallion ceremony to help cement the bond between parents, stepparents and children.

Family therapists and marriage counselors say there is a price to be paid when children feel pushed aside rather than embraced by the remarriage of a parent.

Nancy and David Scott believe their decision to give Jeremy and Nicole a pivotal role in their wedding will permanently strengthen their family bond.

"Our family wedding made the process of becoming a family easier," said David Scott. "The ceremony kind of cemented my relationship with Jeremy and Nicki. It has served as a sound foundation for building a long-term family relationship."

For more information, contact Clergy Services, Inc. at (800) 237-1922.

Rutgers challenge is on

NEW BRUNSWICK — Registration forms are now available for the annual Rutgers Academic Challenge, a statewide interscholastic competition that promotes academic excellence and teamwork among high school students.

The forms can be obtained from high school principals, on the competition's Web site at <http://www.challenge.rutgers.edu> or by calling Rutgers' Office of Print and Electronic Communications at (732) 445-3710, extension 109.

Schools interested in registering to compete in the 2000-01 Rutgers Academic Challenge must submit a completed application, postmarked on or after Monday, Oct. 9. Selection will be done on a first-come, first-served basis to identify 120 teams for the regional tournaments. Teams that meet registration criteria will be assigned to one of three regional tournaments, which will be held on Rutgers' New Brunswick campus Sunday, Feb. 4; the Newark campus Saturday, Feb. 24; and the Camden campus Saturday, March 3. Finalists from each regional tournament will advance to the semifinals Sunday, March 25.

The top three teams in each region will then compete in the regional championship and three regional winners will advance to the state championship round. The regional and state championships will be broadcast on NJN Public

Television. The state champion will receive and have its name engraved on the President's Cup. Each member of the team will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and the high school will receive a \$1,000 award. The second- and third-place team members and schools will receive their regional championship cup, as well as \$500 and \$250, respectively.

The 1999-2000 state champion was Monsignor Donovan High School, Toms River. Runners-up were the second-place team from Columbia High School, Maplewood/South Orange, and third-place John P. Stevens High School, Edison. The winners advanced from a pool of more than 1,400 students representing every county in the state.

The Rutgers Academic Challenge is an educational outreach effort of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, in partnership with NJN Public Television and the New Jersey Department of Education. Educators from New Jersey's 21 counties participated in a meeting reviewing the Academic Challenge content rules and regulations.

A truly collaborative endeavor, more than 350 volunteers — state legislators, corporate and nonprofit leaders, New Jersey Department of Education personnel, Rutgers faculty and staff — served as judges and protectors for the competition.

Americans proudly serve their communities

By Frederick M. Baron

What do you envision when you think of jury duty? If you are like many, you may initially see it as a nuisance — an interruption of your daily schedule and a disruption of your productive life.

But, if you are like jurors polled in a recent survey, that feeling of annoyance quickly disappears once seated on a jury.

That's right — two new surveys about jurors show that on the whole, those who serve on juries are positive about their experience and their time spent on juries serves their communities well.

"It is an experience that will stay with me," said one juror in a survey by the publication Lawyers Weekly.

"This is not a very interesting, very emotionally intense experience," said another juror. "I always come away from it feeling quite patriotic and proud of our system, which gives such power and responsibility to its citizens."

The Lawyers Weekly project gave Massachusetts jurors questionnaires with open — ended questions designed to elicit candid comments.

In addition, 30 Massachusetts Superior Court judges were asked to respond to questions.

The comments of the judges seemed to match those of the jurors. One of the judges said in the survey that she was "not at all surprised by the results. Talking to jurors after a trial, I can't remember a single time when a juror said that he was unsatisfied with the process ... even though they might have tried to get out of doing it."

And these comments by jurors and judges generally match those of another survey undertaken by the Dallas Morning News.

In March 2000, the newspaper joined with the Southern Methodist University Center for Justice Studies on their opinion of the state of the civil justice system. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

In a series of articles that ran during May 2000 the Morning News reported that "[t]he judges' responses reflect a high level of day-to-day confidence in the jury system.... Only 1 percent of the judges who responded gave the jury system low marks.... Overwhelmingly, judges said they have great faith in juries to solve complicated issues."

Among some of the other findings:

59.9 percent believe that, in general, the average juror understands the legal and evidentiary issues in cases most well; and 33.5 percent believe that, in general, the average juror understands the legal and evidentiary issues very well.

92.1 percent agree with jury verdicts in their cases most of the time; and another 4.7 percent agree with jury verdicts in their cases all of the time.

So what's the upshot of all this information? That juries serve their communities; and they serve them well. It's good news, since serving on a jury is one of our most potent opportunities to practice democracy. Here's to the American jurors — our neighbors, our relatives, our colleagues, and ourselves ... all of us.

For more news and safety information and tips, please visit ATL's "Keep Our Families Safe" Web site at <http://familycityatl.org>.

Frederick M. Baron, president of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, is a partner in the Dallas law firm of Baron & Budd, P.C.

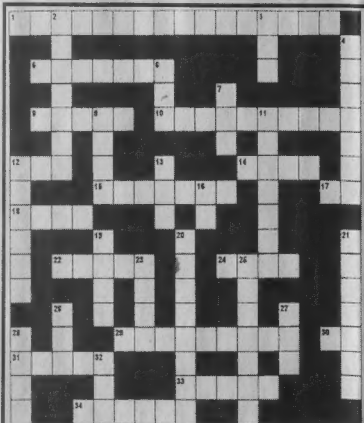
Diversions

Across

- 1 May 17, 1957. This was held on the steps on the Lincoln Memorial
- 5 An illusion
- 8 His play was entitled, "Natural Man"
- 13 This was the first Black-owned airline
- 12 Doctor of Philosophy (abbr)
- 14 National Conference of State Legislatures (abbr)
- 15 He's the founder of "27" Down
- 17 Master of Arts (abbr)
- 18 To slope; incline
- 22 First U.S. ship named after a Black naval officer, USS Jesse L.
- 24 He was the second son of Adam and Eve
- 29 First African American to win an Emmy Award
- 30 Doctor of Divinity (abbr)
- 31 Branch of physics dealing with light and vision
- 33 A ballroom dance for couples
- 34 South Africa's first lady, _____ Mbeki

Down

- 2 He became the first Black major league empire
- 3 "P" across was organized by this man (abbr)
- 4 Gospel sensation, Adams
- 6 Her new album is entitled, "Fear of Flying"
- 7 Screen Actors Guild (abbr)
- 9 National Conference for Community and Justice (abbr)
- 11 The name of blues legend B.B. King's guitar
- 12 Small and trim in figure



- 13 First national news service for African Americans (abbr)
- 16 All right, correct
- 19 Patriarch ordered by God to build the ark
- 20 African country formerly known as Rhodesia
- 21 Fictitious name used for an unknown man
- 23 New York Stock Exchange (abbr)
- 25 He established "13" Down
- 26 Central Standard Time (abbr)
- 27 Black Entertainment Television (abbr)
- 28 A toilet (slang)
- 32 Certified Public Accountant (abbr)

Families take the hands-on computer experience at the Newark Library

NEWARK — The Newark Public Library is offering a new Internet class for fourth and fifth graders accompanied by a parent or guardian. These hands-on classes are an excellent opportunity for parents and children to learn together about the Internet.

Entitled "Discover the World Wide Web," the fun and informative class will teach participants Netscape tips and tricks, how to find cool sites using subject guides and child friendly search engines, and instruct them on safe Web surfing practices. Participants will tour "Kids Place," the library's website just for children, which includes a variety of entertaining and educational sites, as well as a wealth of information about the library. There also will be practice time to pursue

individual interests. Participants will receive handouts of recommended sites for children and recommended sites for parents; they will get pointers on child safety on the Internet.

The Friends of The Newark Public Library provided the funding for these classes.

"Discover the World Wide Web" will be offered three times: Thursday, Oct. 5 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 18, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 28th, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Additional dates for November and December will be announced in the near future.

Classes are free, but seating is limited, so registration is necessary. A parent/guardian must call (973) 733-3603 during library hours to register for one session.



Heartbeat Calendar

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

EDISON — The Haven Hospice Program at Solans Health System is hosting a open house at the JFK Medical Center at 7p.m. For more information call (732) 321-7769.

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital School of Nursing is holding an open house from 3:30-6 p.m. For more information call (201) 833-3186.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

PLAINFIELD — Plainfield Health Center's Fourth Annual Classic will be held at the Netterwood Tennis Club at 8:30 a.m. For more information (908) 753-6401.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

NEWARK — American Cancer Society is sponsoring a walk to fund research for breast cancer at Military Park. For more information call 1-800-ACS-2345.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital is offering an Organizational Therapy program. For more information call (201) 833-3186.

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital is sponsoring a seminar on menopause and breast health from 7-9p.m. For more information call (201) 833-7100.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

EDISON — JFK Medical Center is hosting "Regional Health Summit: Eliminating Disparities Among Minorities" from 8:30-1:30 p.m. For more information (908) 561-4082.

Send your heartbeat calendar events to: City News Heartbeat, 111 Military St., Suite 1.01, Newark, NJ 07102

Bergen schools conduct teen health program

BERGEN COUNTY — This school year, the Bergen County Department of Health Services and the Partnership for Community Health are conducting the final stage of a three-year program to promote nutrition, exercise and healthy lifestyle habits among 10- to 14-year olds in East Rutherford, Saddle Brook and Wallington.

A grant-funded program, PANHL (Physical Activity, Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles) takes a holistic approach based on social research to improving youngsters' eating habits and increasing their physical activity. Since its inception, PANHL has been conducted in Bergenfield, Emerson, Franklin Lakes, Hackensack, Leonia, Lodi, Lyndhurst, New Milford and North Arlington. PANHL employs a variety of activities, such as field trips to the super market to teach kids how to read food labels. Activities are broadened to include the participation of family members, schools and the community to reinforce the healthy lifestyle message in all facets of the students' lives.

In the past two years, student responses to a questionnaire evaluating the program has shown an improvement in their knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and their resiliency to unhealthy lifestyles.

Based at the Bergen County Department of Health Services, the Partnership for Community Health is a countywide coalition of hundreds of organizations committed to improving the health of all county residents. Among the coalition's many goals are improving youth resiliency, nutrition and activity. Parents, faculty members and students are encouraged to continue the positive momentum of the PANHL program. For further information, contact Lon Auebach-Skurbe, Public Health Nutritionist, at (201) 225-7011.

Schering-Plough and Healthcare Foundation fighting to combat pediatric asthma

ELIZABETH — The Schering Plough Foundation and The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey have joined forces with the City of Elizabeth Department of Health and Human Services, to address the needs of children in Elizabeth who suffer from asthma.

A \$50,000 grant was given to the City of Elizabeth Department of Health and Human Services to provide education to parents, health professionals, and the Elizabeth community, regarding pediatric asthma.

Schering Plough Foundation of New Jersey have each donated

\$25,000 toward the grant.

"Schering Plough believes that the health of a community's children is of vital importance, and we are committed to ensuring that Elizabeth's children, parents and health care providers all receive state-of-the-art education and information about the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric asthma," Richard J. Kinney, president of the Schering-Plough Foundation, said.

Pediatric asthma is a serious issue for children throughout the state and nation.

The Centers for Disease Control report that 35 percent of the more than 17 million

Asthma affects more than 4.8 million children in the United States, and more than 10 million school days are missed annually due to asthma.

The Center for Disease Control

Americans who have asthma are children under the age of 18

Asthma affects more than 4.8 million children in the United States, and more than 10 million school days are missed annually due to asthma.

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services reports that three fourths of the hospitalizations for asthma in the state are for children under the age of 19, and nearly half of these children are under age 5.

"We are very delighted to be involved in this partnership with the Schering-Plough Foundation and the City of Elizabeth," said Ellen Lambert, senior program officer at The Healthcare

Foundation of New Jersey. "Through this collaborative effort, children, parents and health care professionals in Elizabeth will be educated about pediatric asthma utilizing an innovative model."

According to Charlene Mason-Reese, director of the Department of Health and Human Services for the City of Elizabeth, "Elizabeth has seen marked problems."

"This grant will significantly enhance our ability to educate parents and health care providers about pediatric asthma," she said, "and ultimately assist health care professionals in diagnosing children with asthma earlier."

Public health pioneers honored for their efforts to reduce black infant mortality

NEWARK Black infants in New Jersey and across the United States continue to die at more than two times the rate of White infants. Instrumental in working to reduce Black infant mortality and to make the issue known at the state and national levels are seven public health pioneers, who were honored for their efforts by the Black Infant Mortality Reduction Resource Center (BIMMRC) in September, at a dinner celebration at the Newark Club.

In New Jersey, for every 1,000 live births in 1997, there were 13.8 Black infant deaths as compared to 4.8 White infant deaths.

"This racial disparity exists regardless of maternal age, education, income, or marital status," says Bertram Scott, chairman of BIMMRC and president and CEO of Horizon Mercy, premier sponsor of the celebration. "Black infant mortality is not caused by any one factor. We must uncover the individual issues contributing to the death of African American babies and address each one to reduce this trend."

"The importance of the work and dedication of these pioneers is irreplaceable," comments Ilse Zimmerman, executive director of the Northern New Jersey

Maternal/Child Health Consortium, which launched the BIMMRC in 1999 with funding from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

"The high incidence of Black babies dying can be reduced if we continue to devote significant resources and attention to combat this public health problem."

While all of the underlying causes of Black infant mortality have not been isolated, contributing factors include psychosocial stresses, such as racism, low birth

weight, pre-term labor and delivery, poor maternal health and lack of awareness about black infant mortality itself.

"People often think that poverty is the main cause of this problem. Yet, affluent, educated, married Black women continue to be at increased risk for poor pregnancy outcomes and infant death," adds Zimmerman. "We must abandon this biased mindset if we are going to make strides in improving the survival rate of black infants."

The BIMMRC's seven hon-

orees have been doing just that in many diverse areas including medicine, nursing, health, education, government, research, community relations and advocacy. The honorees were:

■ Charles Bowers, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, NY.

■ Beverly Henderson, R.N., B.A., president of Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies of Essex, Newark, NJ.

■ Jeannine LaRue, vice president of government relations at Saint Barnabas Health Care System, Livingston, NJ.

■ Jean Rochelle Marshall, R.N., M.S.N., F.A.A.N., vice-president of governmental and community relations at Meridian Health System, Wall, NJ.

■ Anthony Minnerfor, M.D., F.A.A.P., chairman of the department of pediatrics at Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

■ Denise Rodgers, M.D.,



New Jersey Secretary of State Rev. Dr. Forrest B. Soaries, Jr. speaks on the importance of the combating the issue

associate dean for community health and professor of family medicine at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ, New Brunswick, NJ; and

■ Reverend Floyd White, pastor of the Woodland Ave. Presbyterian Church, Camden, NJ.



Above, Bertram L. Scott, president and CEO of Horizon Mercy and Ilse Zimmerman, executive director of the Northern New Jersey Maternal/Child Health Consortium confer during the awards ceremony

Health Highlights

American Cancer society hosts breast cancer walk

NEWARK — The American Cancer Society's annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer — a five mile, non-competitive walk is coming to Downtown Renaissance, Newark, on Sunday, Oct. 15 at 11 a.m. at Military Park. Proceeds from the event will support the American Cancer Society's life-saving research program, patient and family support services, and advocacy efforts to improve access to care, screening and mammograms for women in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic and Union counties.

"This event is a lot of fun for co-workers, families and friends who put together a team and walk for a good cause. They are also a great way for local businesses to sponsor teams and demonstrate

their commitment to fight cancer in our community," explains Stacy Greene, director, American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

Following the walk, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer participants will enjoy a variety of activities and entertainment scheduled throughout the morning and early afternoon. Attendees can also obtain useful information about cancer prevention, detection, advocacy and patient and family support services at American Cancer Society informational booths located throughout the registration area.

For additional information about the day's planned activities and to find out how you can start your own Making Strides Against Breast Cancer team, contact the American Cancer Society at (800) ACS 2345.



Pictured from left to right: Master of Ceremonies President of Horizon Mercy, Bertram L. Scott with honorees, Charles Bowers, M.D.; Beverly Henderson, R.N.; Rev. Floyd White; Denise Rodgers, M.D.; Host, Ilse Zimmerman; honorees Anthony Minnerfor, M.D.; Yvonne Wesley, R.N., Ph.D. and Jeannine LaRue



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ATM Locations

Drive-up window

Hip-Hop on display

Raps roots are uncovered at the Brooklyn Museum of Art



Queen Latifah's African Outfit, c. 1989 from the collection of Latifah's mother, Rita Owens. Latifah added feminist activism to hip-hop's agenda with her declaration of "Ladies First" on her debut album, "All Hail the Queen." Throughout the '90s, Latifah has been a strong presence in hip-hop, on T.V. and in film.

Hip-Hop Nation. Roots, Rhymes, and Rage will present the explosion of hip-hop, the most influential American cultural phenomenon of the past twenty-five years.

On view at the Brooklyn Museum of Art now through December 31, 2000, this multimedia exhibit on features over 400 items from the 1970s to the present, among them hip-hop fashions, videos, and artifacts.

Hip-Hop Nation also showcases clothing and accessories worn by artists such as Afrika Bambaataa, Run-DMC, The Beastie Boys, Salt N' Pepa, Tupac Shakur, Puff Daddy, Eminem, and Missy Elliot. Other items include manuscripts of lyrics by artists Public Enemy, Ice-T, and Arrested Development, a letter from the FBI to Priority Records expressing concern over the group N.W.A. and audio components used by Grandmaster Flash.

The exhibition also includes artifacts of Brooklyn-bred hip-hop artists, such as The Notorious B.I.G. and Jay-Z, as well as interactive D.J. stations, notable photographs and magazine covers, and music-video displays detailing hip-hop's history and its four elements—DJing, MCing, graffiti writing, and breakdancing. Video installations created by YO-TV (Youth Organizers Television) will provide current teenage and young adult perspectives on hip-hop.

Organized by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, Hip-Hop Nation is the first major exhibition of this scope and depth. The exhibition is guest curated by Kevin Powell, former senior writer for *Wired*, frequent contributor to *Rolling Stone*, noted college lecturer, and a widely recognized authority on hip-hop culture.

Brooklyn Museum of Art
Now through December 31, 2000
200 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, New York City
718-638-5931

ture

Hip-Hop Nation will be organized into five sections tracing the development of hip-hop. The first, "The Block Party," introduces the different components of hip-hop. It also includes live demonstrations and computerized interactive terminals.

The second section, "The Roots," is a look at the beginnings of hip-hop and features vintage clothing, audio equipment from the 1970s and early 1980s, a video installation, and array of original party and club handbills. It also includes costumes and other items related to such hip-hop pioneers as Afrika Bambaataa, and Kurtis Blow.

"The Golden Era," section three of the exhibition covers the mid-eighties through 1990, hip-hop's most creative and influential period. The era produced the remarkable rhyme skills of Rakim and Slick Rick, the feminist flavor of Salt N' Pepa, MC Lyte, Monie Love, and Queen Latifah, the agitprop poetry of Public Enemy, and the gangsta sound-track of N.W.A. Highlights include classic photos and original album cover art, clothing from P.E.'s Chuck D, Salt N'

Pepa, Run-DMC, Queen Latifah, LL Cool J, and others, as well as original notes to De La Soul's landmark record "3 Feet High and Rising." A video installation, accompanied by this section.

Section four is "Controversy." Outrage and the Rise of Gangsta Rap? It documents the period when the subculture of gangsta rap came to dominate radio airwaves and the media's attention. Such events as 2 Live Crew's infamous obscenity trial and the interview controversy of Ice-T's "Cop Killer" record (actually a rock song performed by his band, Body Count) marked hip-hop's arrival in mainstream America. By the mid 1990s, hip-hop would lose two of its major icons to tragedy: first Tupac Shakur, then the Notorious B.I.G., victims of still unresolved drive-by shootings. This section also features numerous court documents and newspaper articles as well as artifacts from the collections of Snoop Dogg, Ice-T, N.W.A., and the Geto Boys. The last section, "Pop Goes the Culture," acknowledges that hip-hop has now become the dominant American youth culture. Since MC Hammer and Vanilla Ice in the early 1990s, hip-hop has reigned over the pop charts, along with its influence on R&B performers (TLC, R. Kelly, Mary J. Blige, rock (Rage Against the Machine, Limp Bizkit, Kid Rock), and pop (Backstreet Boys, Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera). Hip-hop's mainstream invasion has also transformed fashion, language, and the way that the African American community in America and worldwide. "Pop Goes the Culture" includes costumes worn by such artists as Puff Daddy, Missy Elliott, Eminem, Will Smith, The Beastie Boys, Jay-Z, and others. It also contains personal items from the estates of the Notorious B.I.G.

HIP-HOP NATION ROOTS, RHYMES, & RAGE

Aretha Franklin, Berry Gordy and others pay tribute to R&B legends

By Nekesa Mummi Moody
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Aretha Franklin, Smokey Robinson, Erinyah Badu and Bonnie Raitt were among the stars who paid tribute to forgotten soul singers of the past at the Rhythm & Blues Foundation's 11th annual Pioneer Awards.

While such superstars as Steve Wonder and the late Marvin Gaye were also honored at the recent event, the bulk of the four-hour ceremony was dedicated to those lesser-known acts as the Chitlites, who faded into obscurity although their harmonies on such hits as "Have You Seen Her" helped define the sound of the '60s and '70s.

"It's one the most important awards that we ever received," said Chitlites founder member Eugene Record. "They (the R&B foundation) do things that are very unusual as far as helping artists who have fallen on hard times, and I don't

know any organization that does that for musicians and entertainers." Besides bestowing long-overdue recognition, the foundation awards most honorees with cash \$20,000 for groups and \$15,000 for individual artists.

Motown founder Berry Gordy helped boost the foundation's coffers, announcing a \$750,000 donation to aid former acts from the legendary label who are struggling.

"These are our pioneers, the people that we got something from, we benefit from, so we have to look out for them like all people do," he said. "It's everyone's responsibility. It's our legacy."

Some of the artists honored by the foundation in years past were cheated out of their royalties and received little during their brief careers.

Many artists did not get adequate compensation, and even today find it very difficult to survive even though their music is known and played," said Mary

Wilson, one of the original Supremes. "As human beings, they're so forgotten I think the Rhythm & Blues organization gives not only sort of an award, but also gives them something that they need inside as human beings, to be respected."

The foundation also gave pioneer awards to Huey "Piano" Smith, who performed on the hit "Don't You Know I'll High Blood Pressure"; Sylvia Robinson, who had a hit with "Love Is Strange" in 1957 and years later helped start the rap revolution with the discovery of the Sugarhill Gang; Clyde Otis, who wrote and produced songs for artists including Nat "King" Cole and Dinah Washington; The Impressions, whose hits include "It's All Right"; Johnnie Johnson, a legendary pianist who discovered and played with Chuck Berry, and Betty Wright, who is probably best known for her hit "Clean Up Woman."

Wonder received the lifetime achievement award, while Gaye's children



Singing sensation Aretha Franklin

accepted the Legacy Tribute award on his behalf. Ahmet Ertegun, founder of Atlantic Records, received the R&B Founders Award.

The event also served as a concert and jam session as the honorees performed some of their biggest hits. Wonder's performance was perhaps the most rousing as he sang a medley of his hits that included "Superstition" and "I Was Made to Love Her" with Raitt, Badu, Robinson, Sisters Sledge and Dionne Warwick singing backup.

Wonder called for the performers to unite with past acts for an album that would feature old hits and the back catalogues to those singers and their families.

"Though Wonder has received countless accolades, he said this award held a special significance for him.

"It really is the essence of how I began," he said. "I was an R&B artist, a rhythm and blues artist, and I have great respect and I am very proud of that."



Pictured left to right are Isiah Whitlock, Jr. as Grant Wiggins and Beatrice Winde as Emma Glenn in "A Lesson Before Dying." Photo: Susan Johnson

Theater

'A Lesson Before Dying' is a worthy experience

Signature Theatre Company's
Peter Norton Space
535 W 42 at 10th New York City

Written by Romulus Linney, from the award-winning novel by Ernest J. Gaines, "A Lesson Before Dying" is the powerful story of two young black men, each in his own way trapped in a small Louisiana town in the 1940s. Condemned by an all white jury to die in an electric chair for a crime he did not commit, Jefferson gives up on everybody, including himself. His grandmother, however, wants him to die like a man and

enlists the help of Grant Wiggins, a disillusioned schoolteacher. Over the course of several months, the two men teach each other important lessons about heroism and about living — and dying — with dignity.

Featured in the cast of "A Lesson Before Dying" are Stephen Bradbury (Sam Guidry), Aaron Harpold (Paul Bonni), Tracey A. Leigh (Vivian Baptiste), Jamahl Marsh (Jefferson), John Henry Redwood (The Reverend Moses Ambrose), Isiah Whitlock, Jr. (Grant Wiggins) and Beatrice Winde (Emma Glenn).

Following the play, the celebration continues in November with the world

premiere of "The Last of the Thorntons" by Horton Foote and then, presented in recognition of past playwright in-residence Adrienne Kennedy, the New York Premiere of "Urban Zulu Mambo," a one-woman show starring Regina. For The first half of the celebration will conclude in Spring 2001 with a new play by Lee Blessing. The 2001-2002 season continues with new plays by Edward Albee, Maria Irene Fornes, John Guare, Arthur Miller and Sam Shepard.

"A Lesson Before Dying" is presented with Alabama Shakespeare Festival and with production support from Saks Fifth Avenue and the National Endowment for the Arts.

ENTERTAINMENT BLURBS

Halle Berry delivers keynote address at conference exploring image of black women in film

By Kam Williams
Last weekend, Princeton University hosted an important conference entitled "Imitating Life: Women, Race and Film" (1934-2000). Convened by Historian Nell Irvin Painter, former head of Princeton's African American Studies Department, the two-day seminar featured academics, directors, actors, critics and others from the entertainment field.

Using the controversial 1934 film "Imitation of Life" as a point of departure, the conference focused on the stereotypical treatment of black women by the film industry. This year's Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning Halle Berry (for "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge") delivered the keynote address to a packed house filled with fans and colleagues.

In an hour-long talk punctuated with numerous entertaining personal anecdotes, the striking Berry won the audience easily, eloquently discussing a wide range of issues such as the challenges



faced by black actresses in Hollywood. Citing her own difficulty in landing a role in "The Flintstones," she suggested that African American actresses have to fight for roles that aren't meant for them. Although the evening's emcee suggested that the audience write any questions for Berry down on paper,

Berry quickly overruled, freely willing to handle any queries spontaneously. And she even made herself available for autographs and photo ops afterwards.

The next day, directors Charles Burnett ("To Sleep with Anger") and Julie Dash ("Daughters of the Dust") shared their perspectives of Hollywood as filmmakers.

Academic contributors, including Professors Thadious Davis (Vanderbilt), Cheryl Wall (Rutgers), Ann Douglas (Columbia), Jill Nelson (Hunter), Valerie Smith (UCLA) Thomas (Morgan State) and Richard Dyer (Warwick) gave talks which examined race and sex in the cinematic portrayal of African-Americans.

By Kam Williams

Although the United States Supreme Court, with its landmark decision in Brown vs. Board of Education, declared public school segregation illegal in 1954, Alexandria, Virginia was among those cities which dragged its feet in implementing a plan for integration. Finally, in 1971, blacks were allowed to enroll at TC Williams High. Simultaneously, the school also hired Herman Boone, an African-American, as head coach of its football team. Given the prevailing attitudes of the day, Coach Boone and the black students' arrival was met with racist fervor by a resentful white community. But Boone, leading by example, tempered his response with the love and non-resistance necessary for a peaceful transition.

"Remember the Titans," starring Denzel Washington as the charismatic Coach Boone vs. the true story of the events surrounding that school's desegregation. Director Boaz Yakin should finally get some long-desired acknowledgment as one of the best in the business. Yakin's "A Price Above Rubies" (with Rene Zellweger), a provocative exploration of the lives of Hasidic Jews in NYC, was #2 on my 1998 Ten Best List.

Here, Boaz focuses narrowly on Coach Boone's efforts to field an integrated football team and to forge it into the family it must become in order to succeed on the field. Washington gives as powerful a performance as his Oscar-nominated one for "Hurricane" put primarily against Will Patton ("Gone in 60 Seconds") who appears as the demoted Coach Yost, a racist who reluctantly remains on staff as Boone's assistant.

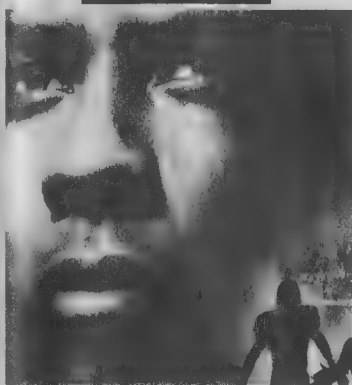
Much is made in the movie of Boone's relationship with Yost's tomb of a nine-year-old daughter, Cheryl, capably played by Hayden Panettiere ("Isn't She Great"). Cheryl, apparently too young to be infected with her father and the town's prejudices, befriends the new coach. Yakin devotes all her free time to the team, in fact, watching practice, breaking down game tapes, offering constructive criticism.

But the meat of the drama rests in the racial tensions of the era, so sensitively recreated by Yakin. Instead of relying on starkly contrasted stereotypes, Yakin takes the time to capture the transformation of an array of newly developed characters on both sides. Gradually, Boone's resolute determination to bridge the polarizing divide of fear and hatred brings desired results.

At the outset, the coach had an impossible situation on his hands. Most of the white players were

Movie Review

Denzel Washington is sensational in '70's desegregation saga 'Remember the Titans'



infuriated by his presence and refused to play with any of those black animals' So, initially, Boone had a mutiny of brawls and sabotage on his hands. The team was unable to function and split along racial lines. But after the coach ordered his players to pair up, one black and one white, to room and ride buses with a member of the opposite race, he initiated an end to the mistrust long maintained by ignorance.

The slow process of actually getting to know each other topples the walls of hatred in a cloud of harmony, as the boys find that they have more in common than contemplated. The soundtrack plays a big part here, offering a myriad of lip-synce opportunities. But the production never gets too light or too sappy to trivialize its profound message. The payoff is huge when a movie can so convincingly convey a transition from intolerance to acceptance.

(This movie is rated PG for thematic elements on race and homosexuality.)

Billboard

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

WOODBRIDGE — The Barron Arts Center will host "Tastes of the Arts" show by Edward Steiche. For information, call (732) 634-0413.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

NEW YORK — The Whitney Museum of American Art presents a show by Edward Steiche. For information, call (212) 570-3633.

NEW YORK CITY — Lincoln Center presents pianist Joan Mance at 8 p.m. For more information, call (212) 721-6500.

MORRISTOWN — The Morris Museum hosts a lecture on Masterpieces of the Hudson River School at 7:30pm. For more information, call (973) 583-0454.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center presents The Millennium Beat. For information, call (800) 255-3476.

NEW YORK CITY — The Museum of the City of New York presents a viewing of "Life of the People: Racist Prints and Drawings from the Ben and Beatrix Goldstein Collection, 1912-1948." For information, call (212) 534-1672.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theatre presents The Millennium Beat. For information, call (800) 255-3476.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

NEW YORK CITY (through 14th) — Lincoln Center hosts "Jazz at Lincoln" at 8 p.m. For more information, call (212) 721-6500.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

METUCHEN — (through November 5th) The Forum Theatre Company presents Elephant Signs. For information, call (732) 548-0582.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

NEWARK — Roy Ayers & Cynthia Holiday will perform at

Newark Symphony Hall at 5 p.m. For more information, call (973) 643-8013.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theatre presents "Franklin's Big Adventure." For more information, call (732) 247-7200.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

ATLANTIC CITY — Resorts Atlantic City presents Gladys Knight at 10 p.m. For information, call (609) 340-6429.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

NEW YORK CITY — The Asia Society will sponsor Ratan Thiyam's Chorus Repertory Theatre. For information, call (212) 288-6400.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theatre presents Ray Charles. For more information, call (732) 247-7200.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

PASSAIC — African Globe Theater/Works presents "When a Man Loves a Woman" at Passaic County Community College at 3pm. For more information, call (973) 624-6333.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theatre presents Mark Russell. For more information, call (732) 247-7200 ext 542.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

NEWARK — Pieces of a Dream and Pat Tandy will perform at Newark Symphony Hall. For more information call (973) 643-8013.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

NEWARK — African Globe Theater/Works presents "When a Man Loves a Woman" at Essex County Community College at 8pm. For more information, call (973) 624-6333.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

ATLANTIC CITY — (through November 12) Resorts Atlantic City presents Harry Belafonte at 10 p.m. For information, call (609) 340-6429.

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Group says New Jersey has highest cost for apartments

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey is top in the nation when it comes to the cost of renting apartments, and leaders of an advocacy group said last Wednesday, that makes affordable housing a crisis in the Garden State.

More than half of those renting apartments can't afford the payments on a three-bedroom apartment, said Peter Kasabach, an executive board member of the Housing and Community Development Network.

The figure is based on federal standards that say housing is affordable if rent is less than 30 percent of a person's income, Kasabach said.

"Families are working harder, longer hours, yet they continue to fall further behind in making their housing payments," he said at a Statehouse news conference.

A person being paid the minimum wage would have to work 131 hours a week to earn enough to afford rent, Lucy Voorhoeve said.

"Or more than three full-time jobs," said Voorhoeve, the group's associate director.

Higher costs force people into substandard housing, Voorhoeve said. Others face eviction or homelessness, she added.

Advocates cited a study by the National Low Income Housing Coalition that said the average rent in New Jersey was \$878 in 1999. That figure was up \$51 from the year before, enough to move New Jersey above Hawaii for the highest average in the country, Kasabach said.

"A lot of people in New Jersey are suffering from this," he said. "If you don't see that as a crisis, as a major issue, I don't know what we

can do."

Robert Adair is a 30-year-old father of two now living in a shelter with his family in Toms River.

Adair told reporters he earns \$1,500 a month, but can't afford to rent an apartment or house and then pay other costs, including medical expenses.

"My monthly bills come out to \$2,000. So what's the answer?" Adair said.

Kasabach suggested more housing and tax credits for developers to promote building.

The working poor would also be helped by an increase in state and federal voucher programs to use in market rentals, he said.

Lawmakers also need to be more aggressive to promote the state's existing affordable housing regulations, he said.

In wake of Firestone recall, automakers push for tire sensors

By Justin Hyde
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — While most modern cars and trucks have electronic sensors to detect everything from oil quality to changes in vehicle direction, checking the air pressure in tires remains a manual chore.

But in the wake of the uproar over recalled Firestone tires, automakers are researching ways to add tire pressure monitoring systems. A few already sell models with a basic monitor that warns if pressure falls too low.

Others, including Ford Motor Co. and DaimlerChrysler AG, are testing a system that would automatically keep tires inflated to a certain pressure and alert drivers to a slow leak. Suppliers say they're getting more calls for such devices, as automakers try to answer what appears to be a newfound awareness of tire problems among consumers.

The technology is there, and it's relatively cheap," said David Champion, director of automotive testing for Consumers Union, the nonprofit publisher of Consumer Reports magazine. "I think to have a pressure sensor that warns you when tire pressures are low, that would be a great benefit to consumers."

Tire pressure has become a focal point in the debate over Firestone tire failures linked to 101 deaths and 400 injuries. Critics have accused Ford of setting the

tire pressure for the Firestones used on the Explorer sport-utility vehicle too low, especially given that tires often run a few pounds per square inch lower than recommended.

Ford President and CEO Jacques Nasser has promised Congress that the automaker would speed up development work on tire sensor systems. The only system Ford sells now is a \$640 option on a Lincoln Continental sedan equipped with run-flat tires.

GM has installed a basic tire pressure monitor on about 1.6 million vehicles since 1997. The system uses the vehicles' antilock brake sensors to detect changes in the shape of the tire and sets off an alert if pressure falls below a certain level.

Auto parts maker Continental Teves has designed a similar system that will go into production in 2002, company spokesman Jim Gill said. He said interest in the system had picked up since the Firestone recall.

But Champion said "Consumer Union tests of the GM system found it to be not sensitive enough to pressure changes. In the tests, Champion said the tire pressure had to drop below 20 pounds per square inch before the system set off an alert."

A more advanced system in some luxury cars, including the Chevrolet Corvette and the Plymouth Prowler, uses a monitor installed inside the wheel hub to more precisely measure pressure.

GM spokesman Terry Rhadigan said the company is considering using tire sensors in more models but declined to give specifics.

The system that Ford and DaimlerChrysler are testing would automatically keep tires at a level pressure. The system's developer, Cycloida Co., already sells a similar device for semi-trucks.

Cycloida's AutoPump is a hockey puck-sized device that mounts on a wheel hub under the hubcap. It keeps tires inflated to a preset level through a compressor powered by the motion of the wheel.

Grant Reiser, Cycloida's chairman and CEO, said Ford and DaimlerChrysler

were planning to use the company's AutoPump on upcoming models. He said several other automakers and tire makers had contacted the company since the Firestone recall.

Reiser said the AutoPump also could predict a tire failure based on how much air was being replaced. That information could be given to a driver as a warning that a tire would fail within a few hundred miles.

Or if a vehicle had a built-in cellular connection, the device could send a signal that would contact a service station, which would dispatch the driver back and offer help.

It's not clear whether any such system would have helped the people injured or

killed in wrecks caused by Firestone tire failures. While the tire industry contends that underinflation causes a raft of problems with tires — and might have played a role in the Firestone failures — none of the systems in production or under development could monitor the tire's structural conditions, such as how much heat has built up.

And such systems add cost at a time when automakers are looking to slash costs. Alan Baum, an analyst with IIRN Inc., said such systems would likely be seen as standard features on luxury models.

"This is clearly something that has some value in the eyes of the consumer," he said.

Computers

Is Windows ME for you?

By Larry Blasko
Associated Press Writer

Windows Millennium Edition is coming to the computer stage in mid-September for a performance that many computer users could easily skip.

Priced at \$49.97, \$89.97 or \$169.99, depending on your current operating system version, Windows ME seems to consist of a number of nice tweaks standing on each others' shoulders to fail out the suit of a major improvement. Particularly if you're already running Windows 98 Second Edition, it's probably a good idea to play the hand you have.

Not that some of ME's tweaks might not be useful. The System Restore tool, for example, can undo what was done by some software installation that violated the "if it ain't broke don't fix it" rule.

And it includes a digital video editor new (and, finally, competitive) media player, and an Image Acquisition tool that makes getting and managing digital images much easier. Plus, it has Internet Explorer 5.5.

But there are many existing applications that do those tasks, and many of us don't spend much time, if any, cutting video on the PC. So some of the software components supplied are themselves available for independent download.

ME's Help function is much better than that of 98 SE, but anyone who has been wrestling with Windows for the past few years probably doesn't need help with

the basic functions. This improvement will benefit mostly computer novices.

If you're looking for improved speed from ME, keep looking. Benchmark tests run by (Net) (http://www.cnet.com) show ME to be a bit slower than 98 SE.

ME's user interface and dialogue boxes will be familiar to Windows users, but improved in their look and feel. And ME is better at helping you handle trouble. Also, it will automatically update itself in the background when you're online, although you can override this if you want to decide for yourself what needs updating.

ME doesn't let you restart in MS-DOS mode, but it will let you open a DOS window. That's not going to bother most of us.

The software adds both offline and online games to its repertoire, which is nice but hardly vital.

The networking wizard makes home networking much simpler, and ME is ready to talk to your appliances if those "smart" refrigerators, coffee makers and toasters ever arrive.

Installation is easy and presents the typical shots of consumers grinning like lottery winners as system features are touted.

Overall, ME is what we wish Windows 95 would have been. If you're happy with your current Windows software, keep it and wait to see what the next version, already in the works, will offer. Windows ME is available at retail, and on the Web at <http://www.microsoft.com>



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Business



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

SPRINGFIELD — NJC hosts "e-governance" at UMNJ from 8:30-10:30 p.m. For more information call (856) 787-9700.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

NEWARK — NJC hosts "Technology Tour" at UMNJ from 8:30-10:30 p.m. For more information call (856) 787-9700.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

NEWARK — NJC hosts "Workplace Mediation" at Alpha Technologies. For more information call (856) 787-9700.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

HAMILTON — The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority will meet for more information call 955-586-2240.

PRINCETON — NJC hosts "MBA 2000" at Princeton South from 4-6 p.m. For more information call (856) 787-9700.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

NEW YORK CITY — Professional Women in Construction (PWC) and National Minority Business Council holds its annual Trade Show and Business to Business Marketing Event at 3:30 p.m. For further information call PWC at (212) 987-0610.

NEW YORK CITY — Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund 15th Anniversary Awards Dinner, reception is at 6 p.m. and dinner and program 7 p.m. (Black Tie) For further information call (212) 886-7003.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

NEWARK — The City News, "CityNet" initiative hosts the World-class Workforce Expo 2000 at the Robert Taft Hotel located on Broad Street in Newark. Call 642-8300 ext. 290 to register for workshops.

Laundry Zone makes a splash in East Orange

By Kelly Foster

Laundromat goes in East Orange do not need to find quarters next time they want to do laundry thanks to washer and dryers that use debit card technology at the newly opened Laundry Zone in East Orange.

Located at 353 Central Avenue, the store, hosted its grand opening Friday, September 22 and 23. The store is the fifth to open in the franchise of high tech, family-oriented Laundromats, which also has facilities in Asbury Park, New Jersey, Brooklyn, New York and Texas.

"What sets Laundry Zone apart from other Laundromats is its customer service oriented atmosphere," said District Manager Bobby Youngblood.

In addition to the debit system, the 7,000 square foot store features a large play area for children, complete with television sets, and a state-of-the-art surveillance sys-

tem, a drop-off laundry service and shoe repair service. The store, which has 64 dryers and 70 washers, will be open 24 hours a day as of Friday, October 6, said Youngblood.

"It's convenient," said Michelle Bodner, President of Laundry Zone, of the debit card system. "Customers don't have to walk around with change. It also makes it a safer environment. No desperate person will break in," she said.

"We meet our customers at the door and help them carry in their laundry," said Youngblood. "We show them how to save money on soap and detergent."

In continuing with its mission of customer service, Laundry Zone greets customers at their cars and helps them carry their laundry into the store in carts, said Youngblood.

Bodner said the company was attracted to East Orange because of its "vibrancy."

"East Orange is a city that is rebuilding toward a new economic prosperity and we want to do our part to help in that process. We like East Orange; the stores are quite attractive."

Bodner said the company looked at available real estate. Through interviews with residents and database information, Laundry Zone found that more than half of Laundromat users in East Orange patronized Laundromats that were outside of the city. "They felt like the ones in E. Orange were not up to their standards," she said. "The more we do to keep residents in town, the more economically vital East Orange will be."

"We are pleased to welcome the Laundry Zone to East Orange because attracting quality businesses to our community is a critical part of our agenda to rebuild the city and make high quality services available to our citizens," said East Orange Mayor Robert Bowser.

Bodner said the store specifically targeted ethnic groups and mothers.

"We analyzed the needs of ethnic groups, and the needs of inner city families, and we'll continue to analyze the needs of our customers to improve the store," she said.

Patron Cindy Williams said she was impressed enough with Laundry Zone to switch from the store she used to frequent in Newark.

"I bring my kids to the play area, and they don't want to leave," she said. "Their washing machines wash real good and they treat me with respect."

Laundry Zone also believes in



Michelle Bodner, (center) President of Laundry Zone cuts the ribbon at the grand opening ceremony. She is joined by (l-r) Bob Bodner, executive vice-president of Laundry Zone; East Orange Fifth Ward Councilwoman Carol Clark; City Council President Mary Patterson; the Laundry Zone mascot, Spinner; City Administrator Joseph Jenkins; Third Ward Councilwoman Quila Talmadge; Fourth Ward Councilman Dwight Sanders and Second Ward Councilman Richard Munford.

taking care of its employees. The store hires locally, with most employees coming from East Orange, West Orange and Newark, said Bodner. Bodner also said that she encourages equal opportunity employment. The store employs five store managers and two district managers. Managers are promoted from within the company, and receive computer and other business training. Employees also receive stock options.

"Everyone in our company has the opportunity to move up," said Bodner.

Angela Key, manager of the East Orange Laundry Zone, said mother of a seven year old son, said what attracted her to employment at the store was the children's

play area.

"At most Laundromats you go to, children are not considered," said Key. "How many other places can you sit down, watch TV, get something to eat, and not be bugged by your child?"

Key said the relaxed, family atmosphere motivates her to be more welcoming with customers. New customers receive a canvas bag with the store's logo as an appreciation gift, said Key.

Bodner said Laundry Zone is constantly looking to expand its stores.

"We are looking for more stores all the time, we'd like to do one more in East Orange and we're looking in Newark," she said.



Patrons enjoy grand opening festivities at Laundry Zone

SBA awards Minority Small Business Firm of the Year

WASHINGTON — SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez announced the winner of SBA's annual awards last week during the start of the 18th annual National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) week celebration.

Business Technologies and Solutions, Inc. of Beaver Creek, Ohio received the National Minority Small Business Firm of the Year Award while Datrose Industries, of Webster, New York, and Valenzuela Engineering, of Los Angeles filed for the National (S) Minority Small Business Graduate of the Year Award.

Angela G. Vlahos formed Business Technologies and Solutions, Inc. (BTAS, Inc.) in 1992 as the sole employee. Her company expanded in 1996, when she was certified as an (S) firm and won her first federal contract from Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. Since its first year, BTAS's revenues have rocketed from \$30,000 to \$4 million, and now employs 70 people.

National (S) minority small business graduates of the year Jerry H. Valenzuela founded Valenzuela Engineering Inc. (VEI) in 1987 to provide engineering and construction management services to the public and private sector work industries. In 1989, VEI expanded and has now performed over \$200 million in federal contracts.

William A. Rose founded Datrose Industries, Inc. in 1976 with only a few employees to provide data entry services in the Rochester, N. Y. area. In 1987, Datrose was certified in the (S) program. Since then his company has evolved into a full service bureau of management and information technology services that include: accounts payable processing, expense accounting, mailroom administration, purchasing management, document management, data entry and word processing.

The company's net worth during its tenure in the (S) program grew from \$81,000 to \$692,000. Its current total annual sales exceed \$12 million.



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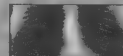
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Letter from the President



"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Many of us grew up hearing those familiar words. Memories of our mothers holding spoonfuls of rancid liquid, sousing to the stomach and equally offensive to the senses. We held our noses, closed our eyes and swallowed, with all

of the faith that the magic elixir would cure us of what ailed our bodies. Those days are gone. Health matters are much more critical today.

Maybe it is our diet, or as some speculate, our environment, the paint on our walls, or the very air we breathe. All of these things contribute to the state of our health as African Americans. What about the other causes? What are the reasons that African-Americans suffer and die disproportionately from many of the same diseases affecting other Americans?

This concern has weighed heavy on my mind and that of our 200 member papers. Out of that concern we introduce *Lifelines: The Journal of African-American Health*. According to an online report on May 22nd from Unity First Online, "Racial and ethnic disparities in health persist in the 21st Century. Despite advances in health promotion, innovations in diagnosis and treatment of disease, and advances in technology that improved the health of the majority of Americans, racial and ethnic minority populations have benefited less from these advances."

As I read the facts it became even more clear to me just how much need there is to have a publication like ours reaching

our community. The information contained within our pages just may save your life or that of a loved one. The article goes on to give some shocking statistics which I will pass along they are:

"African Americans suffer 30% higher cardiovascular mortality, 25% higher cancer mortality, and 60% higher diabetes-related mortality than whites."

We can no longer afford to take lightly, Grandmother saying "Oh I'm alright, I've just got a little sugar." It is killing "Ma Dear" at a time when scientific advancement in medicine can manage diabetes and prevent unnecessary death.

And as for our youth, more African Americans and Latinos are infected with HIV than are Whites, Asians and Native Americans. African Americans are the highest percentage of new HIV and AIDS cases, with Black women being the fastest growing population of AIDS cases.

It's clear that the state of our health is not good, but it is not a lost cause. By developing *Lifelines* we have created a vehicle that is "issue" specific, focusing on one particular health concern each month. Each issue can be considered a chapter on a specific topic. This issue focuses on Asthma, the fastest growing disease in America. So don't throw it away when you finish, file it for future reference, or better yet, pass the information on, at your church, your school, and your social club.

Our pages are filled with information from "cause" to cure. *Lifelines'* only objective is to get the information to you that is needed to make a difference in the quality of your health and to make a difference in your life. We are taking health seriously and expect to make a difference in the way you view your health.

My mother also had one more saying, "When you know better, you do better." We're counting on you. So use the information to improve and maintain your health.

In Good Health,

John Jake Oliver
President NNPA

OUTSMART YOUR ALLERGIES

By Kim Dear

The most effective way to avoid allergy-related health problems is to reduce your exposure to allergens. To do so you have to proactively participate in developing an action plan to outsmart your allergies.

ON THE HOME FRONT:

Kill the carpet. Get rid of wall to wall carpeting in rooms where you spend a lot of time or you must vacuum often and clean by steam.

Release the Birds and Sea. Replace down, feather and foam pillows with fiberfill products.

Encase Them. Enclose mattresses and pillows in plastic covers, opt for leather sofas instead of upholstery.

Let Them Go. Give away your cat and/or dog and replace them with hairless, dander-free pets. They're thoroughly clean to remove their dander.

Call on Raid. Exterminate cockroaches as much as possible.

Freeze the Stuffed Characters. Bag your stuffed animals and store them in the freezer during the day to kill dust mites.

Fan Your Flame. Run your stove fan while cooking to lower humidity and remove fumes and reduce smells.

Keep Cool. Use central air-conditioning or a dehumidifier to keep indoor humidity below 50% to prevent mold as well as to keep the dust mites and cockroaches away. Mold-prone rooms like the basement, kitchen and bathroom need to be well ventilated. Create circulation to prevent poor ventilation.

Beat the Bushes. Prune trees and bushes regularly to cut back heavy vegetation around the house.

Declare A Law. Establish a "No Smoking" rule for your home and never allow smoking inside.

ON NEW FRONTIERS:

Plan Smart. Arrange for vacations during high-pollen seasons in your home area. Refer to The National Allergy Bureau for a free information packet that includes pollen calendar for major U.S. cities: 800.976.5536.

Fly Fair. Airplane travel presents its own set of unique challenges. You can't control the air you breathe inside an airplane but your doctor may suggest some medications that can keep your reaction to on-board allergens to a minimum.

Close the Windows. Keep your car windows closed and turn on your air conditioner to "recirculate".

Request NO SMOKING. When making hotel reservations ask for a non "smoking room" and make sure that it's air-conditioned.

Don't Let the Dust Mites Bite. If you travel and spend a lot of time away from home you may consider the purchase of a silk bed liner that you can take with you anywhere. It protects you from the rough sheets of some hotels and provides a layer.



Be a Sport. Wear wrap-around sunglasses to minimize pollen contact with your eyes.

ON WORK AND SCHOOL FRONTS:

Treat Your Office As You Do Your Home. Remove anything that encourages mold, especially soggy plant soil. If you can, remove carpets or have them cleaned regularly. Keep your office and desk clear of clutter. Paper and other trinkets collect dust.

Breathe Clean Air. What's in the air you breathe is crucial to your health so make sure that office ventilation and heating systems have clean filters and are functioning up to par. This simple step can help minimize your exposure to allergens.

Check The Triggers. If your child's allergies seem to be aggravated, check out his or her school for animals in the classroom, roaches in your teenager's lockers, dust mites in preschool and kindergarten floor rugs, all of which trigger allergies. Then lead the campaign to have those areas cleaned.

More information online at
www.lifelinesmag.com/nutrition

Jackie Joyner-Kersee

Running For Life

By Kai EL' Zabar

Jackie Joyner Kersee began running at the age of nine. She won her first of four consecutive National Pentathlon Championships at the age of 14. Since then she has achieved much to earn a reputation as the world's best all-around female athlete and the greatest heptathlete of all time. We're all too familiar with her victories. As her greatest fans we all sat and watched in awe admiring her talent, will and determination.

Time and again Jackie amazed us. Beginning in 1984, she went to compete in the Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, where she won the silver medal in the heptathlon—a two day event in which athletes compete in the 100-meter hurdles, high jump, shot put, the 200-meter race, followed by the long jump, javelin, and 800-meter race. She is the winner of six Olympic medals, three of them gold, the current world record

holder in the heptathlon, the one-time world record holder in the long jump; and an all American Basketball Player. She accomplished all of these honors between 1984 and 1996

Diagnosis And Denial

What she's accomplished is amazing even more so because she was diagnosed with asthma in 1981 at 18 years old. "When the doctor told me that I had asthma, I didn't accept it as true," as she recalls, "I lived in denial for many years after because I was good athletically. As a child growing up we were told that if you have asthma you can't do what I was doing. I knew nothing about asthma except my preconceived notion that if you have asthma you can't breathe so when he said, 'you have asthma,' I said no way, because I run, I jump, I swim, I do everything. Basically, I ignored his advice."

Jackie explains that although it was not the best attitude to have, one that could have cost her, her life, it was easy to deny and hide the symptoms because she was still winning. She believed that her condition did not effect her performance.

Today as spokesperson for Glaxo Wellcome, Jackie tours the U.S. and addresses audiences of all ages. She visits hospitals where she talks to doctors, nurses, patients and parents of asthmatic children, to enlighten and educate them about asthma. She provides doctors with insight as to why people like herself may deny the reality of the illness.



"I think the most important thing that I try to convey is how important the education of knowing about asthma is because as a young person

I always wheezed but I didn't know that I was wheezing nor did the people around me know that I was wheezing or what that meant



We all thought that it was 'my natural way of breathing,' she said.

Jackie explains that it wasn't until 1987 that she had her first attack which forced her to face her mortality. "It's quite a frightening experience," she said. "Suddenly my body was out of control and I was gasping for air, I saw stars and in that moment I was rendered helpless."

Jackie shared that, after having the attack and being rushed to the hospital, once she recovered, she thought that the asthma was gone. "So, I didn't take my medicine regularly as prescribed. That went on for years" she explained.

Taking Charge

Jackie tells how one night alone in her hotel room she awoke gasping for air. And although she knew more about asthma at that time, she was still overwhelmed. She knew she had eaten peanuts earlier the day before, even though it's considered one of the forbidden foods for asthma.

manics. She thought, she could cheat by using her inhaler if she had an attack. Her plan backfired because she didn't have an immediate attack when she was prepared instead the delayed reaction caught her totally off guard. She cites the scary experience as the one that opened her eyes. "I knew that by eating peanuts, I was playing with my life. I realized that I had to respect asthma like I do my opponent. So from that point on that's how I approached asthma. That's when I chose to take responsibility for my life."

For Jackie, the challenge was accepting that she had asthma. "It was difficult for me. What I had to do first, was to look at myself and say 'Yes, I have great discipline as an athlete, but I still have to deal with being asthmatic. So taking my medicine so that I can run or jump wasn't really the most important thing but rather that I can live a longer life.'"

"I understood that I had all the potential in the world to be the best athlete I could be. What I had to do was master the discipline of managing my health. I had to be intentional about taking my medicine."

"I just didn't get it. I'd wake up some mornings and feel great so I'd think that I didn't need it,"

she further explained. "The truth is, if your asthma is under control, it's under control because of the things that you are doing. Your improved state of wellness is showing you that; if you follow your prescribed treatment plan on a daily basis, you can control your asthma. And even if you have an attack it is not as severe as when you weren't taking the medication."

In addition to taking medication, Jackie stresses the importance of following the dietary modifications specific to you. She avoids all seafood, peanuts, dairy foods and all pitted fruits even the peaches that she loves.

Education Is Key

About her work with Glaxo Wellcome, she says, "I've only recently realized how much my sharing my story with all those involved with the welfare of the asthma sufferer helps them. I find that people respond to the experiences of those who share the same challenges as themselves. They know you know what they're going through so when you say, 'you can do it, because I did,' they believe you."

Our thrust is to educate everyone since anybody can be asthmatic. If nothing else, they will know to get help. **THEY CAN BE YOUR LIFELINE**

Jackie notes that, above all else, each of us is responsible for our own health. "If I can impress that upon everyone especially young people, then half the battle is won."

The Jackie Joyner Kersee Youth Center Foundation held its ribbon cutting ceremony March 1, 2000 in East St. Louis. The multi-cultural and educational facility offers a range of classes and activities from a computer lab to ballet and mentoring.

More Jackie Joyner Kersee online at www.lifelinesmag.com/coverstory



"So taking my medicine so that I can run or jump wasn't really the most important thing but rather that I can live a longer life."

LUNG FOOD

by Mae Ebert

Eliminate dairy and sugar products from your diet, increase the onions and garlic, is a winning combination key to breathing freely.



Two types of asthma have been identified. One condition is caused by allergens, while the other develops without any specific allergens found.

Considerations

If you suffer from asthma, monitoring the frequency of attacks and identifying the conditions that bring them on is the first step in getting it under control. Allergies to foods such as white bread, peanuts, sugar, eggs and shellfish can exacerbate an asthma condition, so you should eliminate them from your diet. Reducing your intake of dairy products, particularly cows milk, is also recommended since it increases the production of phlegm and mucus which can worsen an asthma condition by clogging the lungs. It is important to note that citrus and wheat products may have a delayed respiratory effect.

Dietary Modifications

1 According to studies done in the early nineties, a vegetarian diet has been found to be helpful for the majority of asthmatics. The recommended diet excludes all meat, fish, eggs, and dairy products.

2 Limit all animal products. The production of substances that contribute to allergic and inflammatory reactions found in asthma come from arachidonic acid, a fatty acid found mainly in animal products.

3 Drink pure spring water rather than chlorinated tap water.

4 Eliminate all coffee, tea, chocolate, sugar and salt.

5 Eat large portions of raw fruits and vegetables daily.

6 Eliminate all packaged cereals except for buckwheat and millet.

7 Remove all food additives from the diet. Many preservatives and dyes have been reported to cause asthma attacks. Examples of additives include tartrazine, benzoates, sulfur dioxide, and, particularly sulfites.

8 Chili pepper also known as cayenne or red pepper has been used naturopathically to break an asthma attack. This food has been shown to have components that desensitize the airways to various irritants.

9 Add onions and garlic, preferably raw in generous portions to your diet, unless you are allergic

to them. They are known to ward off an enzyme that generates an inflammatory chemical.

10 Avoid using aspirin and other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, as they can bring on an asthma attack.

11 Identify all food allergies. Particularly in infants and children, elimination diets (the identification of allergens by eliminating foods on a trial basis) have been successful in the treatment of asthma. Many of the foods mentioned like chocolate, milk, wheat, citrus fruits, food colorings, eggs, shellfish and nuts, especially peanuts, when eliminated can make a world of difference to your child's health.

In one study, the diet had to be followed at least one year before some of the participants experienced full benefits but marked improvement was visible. So don't give up too soon. Before beginning the diet, a juice fast may be necessary to cleanse and prepare the body (this does not apply to children under 17). Low stomach acid may be a contributing factor so see your doctor.

(For teenagers and children in their formative years especially, professional nutritional counseling is recommended to ensure that the vegetarian diet includes adequate protein during critical growth years.)

Joining For Life, authors; Cherie Calbom and Maureen Keane, Avery Publishing Group Inc., Garden City, NY.

More nutrition information online at www.lifelinesmag.com/nutrition



Breathe

By Kai EL' Zabar

BREATHING EXERCISES

1. PRELIMINARY

1. Begin by pushing your stomach out.
2. Do not breathe at all.
3. Relax and breathe.
4. Start over and repeat 60 times.

Focus mechanically on your diaphragm (which is technically the partition of muscle and connective tissue separating the chest and abdominal cavities and act to expand the chest during respiration)

3. PLOW OF "PLOW" MODIFICATION

1. Lay back on the floor facing the wall. Hips are against the wall and legs are up against the wall.
2. Bend the knees as your heels are touching the wall.
3. Take the heels of your feet and push them against the wall and it will lift you up off your hips.

This is the first movement to go into the "plow". The posture forces you to breathe from the diaphragm.

2. PRACTICE ISOLATION

1. Sit-up with feet place flat on floor.
2. Legs should be shoulder length apart.
3. Back is erect.
4. Place hand on diaphragm.
5. Breathe in the diaphragm.
6. Exhale out.

The purpose of this exercise is to learn to distinguish between the chest and diaphragm.

4. "THE PLOW", THE ULTIMATE POSTURE

1. Lay on your back. Place feet up against the wall.
2. Bring your feet over your head pushing them off from the wall
3. Bring your feet over, down towards your head.
4. Toes are touching the floor.

This forces the diaphragm to breathe and forces the upper portion of your back to open up which forces the lungs to breathe more.

Recently at a health seminar one of the participants had an asthma attack. Dr. Azar Hapi acted quickly and moved to aid the participant. He explains that he then instructed the participant to breathe in a very controlled manner. Fortunately, under his guidance, the participant was able to relax and control the breath instead of having to be rushed to the hospital emergency room.

He explains, "Breathing is a mechanical and a respiratory function, I teach the patient how to breathe in order to effect the respiratory system and therefore alter the occurrence of an asthma attack which only compounds the asthmatic's poor breathing habit. The truth is that the way that they breathe in the upper chest makes it hard for the body to function at 100 percent."

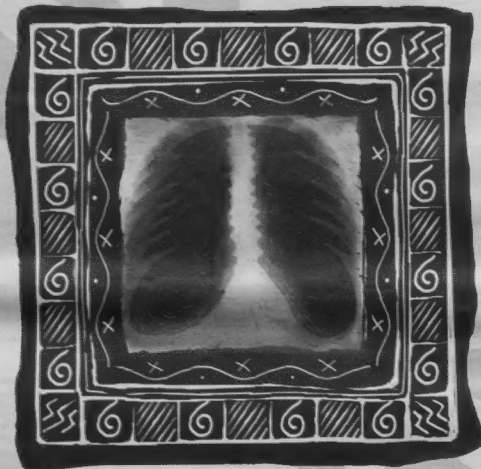
According to Dr. Hapi, this particularly mechanical function is such that unless you can direct the patient as to how to breathe to get the lungs functioning properly he or she does not know how to breathe beneficially. They have in fact developed an "abnormal" way of breathing which places them at risk at all times and therefore in a crisis state or a very minimal state of well being.

Dr. Hapi explains that the technique is the first step to correcting their breathing, improving digestion, increasing energy and blood flow.

"In my yoga classes I teach people how to breathe normally as a natural mechanical technique that can change their entire life and one that everyone needs to know."

Dr. Azar Hapi, a Naprapath Physician in Chicago and Director of New Horizon Holistic Healing Clinic in Chicago where he also teaches Yoga. He can be reached at 312-9EX-PAIN.

ASTHMA: A PROFILE



By Mukai Ebel

Asthma is no laughing matter as all asthma sufferers will attest. Some people who suffer from asthma have only mild episodes which are disturbing at worst. For others, however, asthma attacks can be serious enough, to garner emergency medical attention.

THE FACTS

Asthma, Bronchial asthma which is defined as a recurrent paroxysms of difficult breathing and coughing, is a catarrhal condition involving the mucous membrane of lower respiratory

passages. The asthma is more or less spasmodic and is always accompanied by catarrhal affections in other parts of the body. The asthma attack, is a pain in the lungs. It is identified as difficulty with breathing accompanied by sporadic wheezing sounds caused by a spasm of the bronchial tube or swelling of the mucous membranes. It is characterized by shortness of breathe, coughing and expelling

of mucus. The chronic respiratory disease causes the chest to tighten, and thus breathing becomes difficult.

The symptoms come

in unexpected "attacks" triggered by environmental factors such as pollen, dust roaches, mold and smoke as well as emotional factors like stress.

Asthma is found everywhere, in all classes of people. It is found in both warm and cold countries wet and dry climates, in high and low altitudes, among rich and poor. Men,

women and children develop the disease. Although asthma is not peculiar to a particular group, it seems that there are those who are more predisposed to asthma than others.

THE STATS

Asthma ranks as the seventh most common chronic affliction in America, affecting some 15 million people. American Lung Association statistics show a 102% increase in the number of asthma cases from 1980 to 1994. For African Americans the reality is more alarming. In 1995, the most recent year for which data is available, the prevalence of asthma among African Americans was 67.4 cases per 1000 people, compared to 56.2 cases per 1000 Whites. The statistics also indicate that African Americans were more likely to be hospitalized for asthma than Caucasian Americans and three times more likely to die from it.

Children make up five million asthmatic sufferers, many of whom are minorities or children living in poor living conditions in the inner city, which increases the exposure to outside allergens that trigger asthma attacks. Indoor irritants are more important causes of asthma than outdoor allergens like pollen because they last year-round and it's where people spend most of their time.

As it stands buggy homes unleash allergies and asthma is no exception. Federal researchers suggest that beds in almost

half the homes in America suffer from allergy-triggering numbers of dust mites. Further, a sizable number contain either cockroaches or enough dust mites to trigger asthma attacks. In urban settings, allergens from cockroaches are present in the bedding in more than 6% of the homes.

THE TREATMENT

There is no cure for asthma. However, it can be managed and controlled so that you can lead a fulfilling life. Doctors can and do prescribe drugs, taken orally or through an inhaler, that help open constricted airways. The inhaled medications deliver results directly to the lungs and use 1000 times less medication than pills. However, if overused the great wonders can have serious side effects such as high blood pressure and chest pains. In severe cases, corticosteroids may be prescribed.

Others have sought and continue to pursue alternative forms of treatment like acupuncture and yoga or aromatherapy in a combination with dietary guidelines to relieve the stress that helps trigger asthma.

Experts concur that conventional medicine combined with nutritional medicine and specific dietary changes and as well as stress reduction can — lessen the severity of attacks and, in some cases, eliminate reliance on prescription drugs.

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ILLUSTRATION: CHUCK WATSON

FEDERAL HEALTH OFFICIALS WORK TO CONTROL ASTHMA

by Dr. Claude Lenfant

To address the growing problem of asthma in the U.S., the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) created the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) in 1989. The NAEPP's first significant achievement was the development and wide distribution of the "Expert Panel Report: Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma." This report changed common perceptions about asthma and its treatment by emphasizing the role of inflammation in disease development, noting the importance of objective monitoring of lung function, and stressing the need for establishing partnerships between patients and health care providers through patient education.

On World Asthma Day, May 3, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala, who said, "We are confronting an epidemic of asthma", released "Action Against Asthma: A Strategic Plan" for HHS, a departmental blueprint to bring asthma to the forefront of the nation's public health awareness. Among the four priorities outlined in the plan are the elimination of the disproportionate health burden of asthma in minority populations and of those living in poverty.

THE U. S. GOVERNMENT TAKES ON ASTHMA

An updated version of NAEPP guidelines was released in 1997. It builds upon the recommendations in the original report and, based on more recent scientific findings, adds recommendations for clinicians and patients about such important issues as the appropriate medications for controlling asthma and for relieving asthma symptoms, the use of allergy testing to identify perennial indoor allergens for some patients, the importance of reducing patient exposures to tobacco smoke, the need to treat suspected asthma in infants aggressively, and the value of using spirometry and peak flow monitoring in diagnosing and monitoring asthma.

The guidelines continue to be promoted today at national health and medical association meetings, in a variety of journals, and via other means. But despite these efforts, a gap remains between what they recommend and the actual

practices of many clinicians, patients, and their families. To try to close this gap, the NAEPP has recently begun to work with community-based asthma coalitions. Local coalitions offer a unique perspective and expertise in implementing creative solutions to problems. They have access to population groups with poorly controlled asthma who are often left out of the information loop — namely, ethnic and racial minorities, and people who are medically underserved and socioeconomically disadvantaged. The NAEPP understands that interventions must be customized to reflect the needs of individual communities and that the sustaining power of interventions comes from the support, energy and resource mobilization that occur at the local level.

RESEARCH

In addition to its asthma education efforts, the NHLBI is the key contributor to asthma research at the NIH. Some of the research is exploring how genetic and environmental

factors interact to cause asthma so that methods can be developed to prevent it before a child is born. Research in asthma education outreach programs is seeking the best techniques for teaching patients how to manage their asthma in partnership with their physicians. These types of strategies are important for everyone. The goals of all of this research are to improve understanding of the causes and mechanisms of asthma and to identify better ways to treat, manage, and ultimately cure or prevent the disease. Other research focuses on intervention to help patients learn how to manage their asthma.

Why has asthma become such a problem, especially for African Americans? The reasons are not clear. However, it appears certain that many asthma-related hospitalizations and deaths are preventable. That is the Federal Government's challenge.

Dr. Claude Lenfant, Director, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health



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